

Hafa Adai!

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Mistrial declared in rape case

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court declared Friday a mistrial in the ongoing jury trial of a man who has been accused of rape.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja cited "prosecutorial misconduct" for declaring a mistrial in the ongoing jury trial of Manolo Romolor.

"After reviewing the parties and

listening to the arguments, and the audio of the trial, I am declaring a mistrial due to prosecutorial misconduct. The written order will follow explaining the court's reasoning in detail. Briefly the court would like to



Berline



Tenorio

note that there were nearly 80 objections against the Commonwealth, a curative instruction to mischaracterization of the Commonwealth, and numerous instances of testifying and inappropriate use of the complaining witness' first name. These excessively large amount of errors infected the trial...continued instruction could

See MISTRIAL on Page 4

'Marianas has unique needs'

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres leaves for Washington, D.C. tomorrow where he hopes to tag-team federal immigration officials with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero to give both U.S. territories some consideration when it comes to the H-2B visa eligibility of skilled workers from the Philippines.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigra-

tion Services declared last month that skilled workers from the Philippines are no longer eligible to avail of the H-2B visas, together with the Dominican Republic and Ethiopia, due to potential abuses of the program.

A recent review by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. State Department have determined that Filipino nationals holding H-2B visas have

See MARIANAS on Page 4

Ermitanio is 2019 PTO Staff of the Year

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Arnel Ermitanio was recognized last Saturday as the 2019 CNMI Public School System's Pupil Transportation Office Staff of the Year, along with two other representatives from Rota and Tinian, respectively.

Ermitanio represented Saipan. Rhysanne Hizon represented

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2019 State Pupil Transportation Staff of the Year winner Arnel Ermitanio of Saipan, center, is congratulated by fellow finalists Renato Benghit of Tinian and Rhysanne Hizon of Rota as Education Commissioner Glen Muña announces the state winner. Board of Education chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio along with BOE and PSS officials, also congratulated the winner.

PSS



INSIDE



LOCAL

The two-year pre-engineering program at the University of Guam will evolve into a four-year course.

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NATION

The man who opened fire and killed five co-workers took a gun he wasn't supposed to have.

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ASIA

India's prime minister warned of a "crushing response" to the suicide bombing in Kashmir.

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Local

Garapan school OK'd as polling site in special election

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Public School System has already approved the Commonwealth Election Commission's request to designate the Garapan Elementary School as a polling site for the March

special election, according to CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol yesterday.

Igitol said they, however, are not sure whether the designated polling site at Ga-

» **CEC still awaiting reply from PSS if Oleai is ready**

rapan Elementary School is the cafeteria or a classroom.

With respect to the other polling site, Igitol said they are still awaiting the reply of Education Commissioner Glenn

Muña whether Oleai Elementary School is available.

She said their request is to designate one classroom at Oleai since its cafeteria is still under renovation.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez earlier stated that they want to hold the March 23 special election

at the Garapan and Oleai elementary schools—the traditional polling places for Precinct 3 voters.

Due to Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation last Oct. 24 and 25, the polling sites for Precinct 3 during the Nov. 13, 2018, general elections were moved to Garapan Central Park and at

the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Oleai/San Jose.

As of last Jan. 28, there were 3,361 registered voters in Precinct 3.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres set the special election following the death of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz last month.



UOG SCHOLARS

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Two University of Guam students received scholarships in January from the Palau Women's Club of Guam. Freshman biology major Mary Heather B. Jingco, third from left, and freshman pre-nursing major Megan P. Babauta, center, each received \$1,000. The students were selected based on their grade point average, community service involvement, and personal career objectives. From left, Margie Bautista, treasurer; Esther Espangel, vice president, both of the Palau Women's Club of Guam; Jingco; Babauta; Lawrence F. Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success at UOG; Laurie Pangelinan, president of the Palau Women's Club; Alicia Borja, vice chairman for the Scholarship Program with the Palau Women's Club of Guam and a past recipient of the scholarship; and Mark A. Duarte, director for Financial Aid at UOG.

'Shake-and-bake method not blueprint for a commercial meth lab operation'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A man who has pleaded guilty over allegations he maintained a hotel room for a clandestine crystal methamphetamine or "ice" laboratory on Saipan now argues that he and his associates were merely making meth to support their addiction and not to sell the drug.

Vincent David Cabrera Jr., through counsel Benjamin K. Petersburg, said that making "ice" through the shake-and-bake method is not a "blueprint for a commercial operation."

Petersburg is recommending a sentence of just 10 years in prison for Cabrera.

On the other hand, assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe described Cabrera as the "organizer" and leader of the conspiracy to manufacture and sell meth.

Backe said Cabrera maintained a room at the Vegas Resort for the purpose of manufacturing (not to mention distributing) methamphetamine. He said this is made clear by a Drug Enforcement Administration surveillance.

Backe said it is also made clear by the evidence obtained from the room of the night of Cabrera's arrest.

The prosecutor said Cabrera agreed to this fact in his plea agreement that he also maintained a room at the Vegas Resort for purposes of manufacturing methamphetamine.

In Cabrera's recommendation, Petersburg said the defendant did not have money or income to buy the expensive, high-quality imported "ice" and, instead, made low-quality meth using basic household items and the shake-and-bake method to feed his personal addiction. He said instructions for the shake-and-bake method are widely available on the internet.

To his credit, Petersburg said, Cabrera did not steal, rob, or burglarize in order to support his addiction, but found a way to make his own meth to support his habits.

Petersburg said some of Cabrera's friends and other users

naturally joined in, as this was a low-cost way to support their own addictions.

Petersburg said Cabrera and his associates made meth for their own consumption, not to sell it.

Petersburg said it is somewhat difficult to acquire enough pseudoephedrine and other ingredients to make even a single small batch of shake-and-bake meth.

He said small batches produced small quantities of low-quality meth which was used by the manufacturers themselves to support their own habits.

Petersburg said some of these individuals also cooked meth, often without Cabrera's knowledge or involvement whatsoever.

He pointed out that this is consistent with the fact that these individuals were cooking to support their own habits, not as part of an ongoing coordinated conspiracy.

Describing them as loose group of meth addicts, the lawyer said they did not constitute a "drug enterprise."

"This is not an organized commercial operation where meth is being produced for sale and distribution," Petersburg said, adding that this is simply a group of users making meth in two-liter soda bottles in order to support their own habits.

"Indeed, even from a total quantity perspective, the amount U.S. Probation Office claims this group cooked over a period of seven months is just 50 grams," Petersburg said.

The lawyer said while on its face, this is a serious offense carrying significant penalties, a closer look reveals that Cabrera's conduct is not so serious as the typical manufacturer of meth for the purpose of distribution.

Indeed, he said, while the idea of a meth lab conjures up images of complicated set ups with intricate chemistry glassware, this is not that sort of case.

"We are dealing with two-liter soda bottles, store-bought items, and over-the-counter

medication," Petersburg said.

He said the group of persons involved was small and included a number of addicts and users who contributed items in order to get a fix.

He said they did so without violence or committing other crimes commonly associated with addiction.

To a significant extent, Petersburg said, it was a self-contained group that did not impact the community.

Cabrera pleaded guilty last Sept. 17 to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine as part of a plea deal.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of not more than a 20-year term of imprisonment, a fine not to exceed \$1 million, not less than a three-year term of supervised release, restitution, and a \$100 special penalty assessment.

Under the plea deal, the U.S. government expects defendant's sentencing guideline range to be 210 months and 240 months of imprisonment because the statutory maximum for the offense to which he pleaded guilty to is 20 years.

Sentencing was continued to Feb. 27.

According to Cabrera's factual admissions, between on or July 1, 2017 and Feb. 25, 2018, he, along with Eugene Blas Repeki Jr., Rick Urumellog Omar Jr., Sidney Capelle Kani, and others, agreed to make methamphetamine.

Cabrera said he knew of this agreement to make "ice" and that he joined in the agreement, knowing of its purpose and intending to help accomplish it.

He said they would smoke the manufactured methamphetamine, as well as sell and/or give to other people.

Last September, Repeki, also known as Uncle, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Last May, David Muña Sablan pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

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PARTY CANDIDATE

CNMI Democratic Party chair Nola Hix, third from right, and other party's officials and supporters gather for a photo outside the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe, where they came to support the filing of candidacy of the party's new member, Donald Cabrera Barcinas, last Feb. 8. Barcinas is among the four candidates in the March 23 special election for a vacant Precinct 3 seat in the House of the Representatives.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

NWS warns of risk of rip currents

The National Weather Service has issued a warning of a high risk of rip currents in the Marianas through Friday night.

Based on the information received from the NWS in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a trade-wind swell will continue to produce a high risk

of rip currents along east facing reefs all this week.

Along east facing reefs, surf of 7 to 10 feet will maintain

a high risk of rip currents all this week. Depending on the development of a tropical disturbance near Kosrae in the

Federated States of Micronesia, the high risk of rip currents may spread to south facing reefs also by the weekend.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near reefs and beaches, especially those facing east. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm, swim parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. (PR)

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Blanco: It was an honor to serve

Former CNMI Zoning board chair Diego C. Blanco is grateful for having served on the board since 2012.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios recently accepted Blanco's courtesy resignation.

The administration also accepted Zoning board member George M. Fleming Jr.'s courtesy resignation.

Blanco said yesterday he is honored and thankful for the opportunity to serve under Torres' administration.

"The Zoning office is very fortunate to have a very capable administrator and zoning staff. Best wishes to the Torres/Palacios administration," he said.

When asked about his plans, Blanco said he wants "to be happy and go fishing."

Blanco was elected Zoning board chair six times since he was first appointed to the board in 2012.

Last Nov. 18, Torres issued a memorandum asking all Cabinet members, board members and commission members to submit courtesy resignation letters. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Blanco

'More history teachers needed'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI historian Don Farrell is urging the Senate to use its influence in making sure that local scholarship programs would encourage more students to choose a career in history education to benefit the Public School System.

Farrell, who was honored last week by the Legislature with separate resolutions, said there are a lot of classrooms in CNMI schools that are not filled with teachers that have background in history education.

"It always surprises me that more teachers don't choose to teach CNMI history. It is the history of their own homeland," he said. "We spend a lot of money through scholarships. If there's some way you could focus those scholarships a little bit in encouraging students to choose careers that

have history degree background, particularly history education, that would be a long-term benefit to PSS and our community."

He pointed out that knowing and teaching the history of the CNMI would keep the youth of today educated about the past. "There are many other things that needs to be done, like supporting the preservation of history and culture in the CNMI. It is a difficult issue and it is not always at the top of the public agenda."

Farrell said his dream is to have a young Carolinian write their side of history, a challenge that would help future CNMI historians in writing a complete account of the Commonwealth.

Farrell has written 10 books about the history of the CNMI and Guam, the last of which is Tinian and the atomic bomb—the untold story of how the atomic bombs, dropped in

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, were developed.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) recently introduced Senate Commemorative Resolution 21-1 honoring Farrell for his exceptional service in the field of education and in preserving the history of the Marianas.

Rep. Antonio SN Borja (R-Tinian) also introduced House Commemorative Resolution 21-1 to also commend Farrell, who was recognized by the council for his contribution in Research and Publication in the Humanities last month.

Farrell graduated at California State University-Fullerton with a bachelor in science degree in Biology in 1972 and earned secondary teaching credits at CSU-San Bernardino. He went to Guam to teach and then founded Micronesian Productions in 1980 in an effort to make the world aware of the Marianas.

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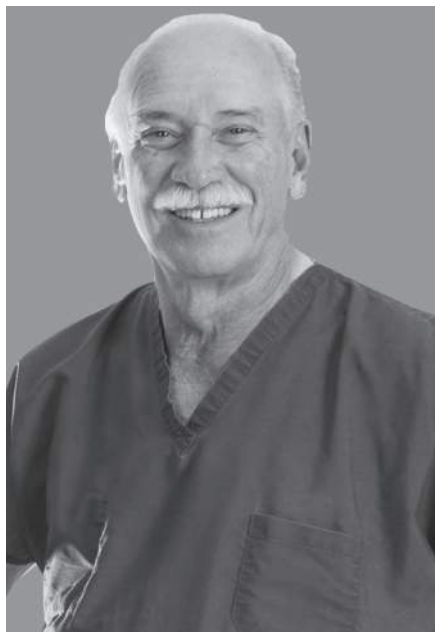
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MVA expects \$1.4M in budget reduction

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority expects a massive cut of \$1.4 million in its annual budget due to the drop in hotel occupancy as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu.

According to Gloria Cavanagh, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chairwoman and MVA board member, the collection of hotel occupancy tax is expected to drop greatly and is projected to put a huge dent

in MVA's annual budget because of the number of hotels that remain closed and are still recovering from the destruction of Yutu.

"It's no secret. MVA projected 1.4 million reductions in the collection of hotel occupancy tax. The Pacific Islands Club Saipan was closed and not receiving new reservations since Oct. 25, since the storm, and we opened on the 21st of December and we only opened with a little over 200 rooms; we are complete with 308 as of Feb. 1. You

have World Resort that's still closed and you have Coral Ocean Point Golf Club that's still closed. ...We don't see [Coral Ocean Point] opening any time soon, maybe toward the end of the year," she said.

"March is very soft for the Korean market and so it's just lower, lower numbers than last year, so [HANMI] is anticipating a huge drop, as is everyone in the government," she added.

Cavanagh said the drop in collection of hotel occupancy tax would result in

fewer promotions to bring in tourists and this is something that MVA fears but HANMI and MVA plan to be more proactive.

"It means less money that is put into promotions. It's a little scary... that's why the hotel association and MVA met and we're trying to be a little bit proactive in re-introducing the destination to our three markets which are Korea, China, and Japan and, with Japan coming back on board...we need to show that our destination has

recovered. We really need to be proactive in promoting our destination because, for a lot of people, the last thing they saw was the devastation from Yutu but we need to show them that our destination is stronger than ever," she said.

Cavanagh said MVA will be proactive through a concert that is geared toward CNMI promotion.

"MVA is planning a concert to join together with

the Flame Tree Festival. ... Right now, with the concert that they're planning for April during the Flame Tree Festival, they're looking at the tourism partners actually helping as far as defraying some costs...We know that we need to re-introduce Saipan and the CNMI as recovered and this is a big way of doing that. But because of budget restraints, we need to do our part as a tourism partner," she said.

MISTRIAL

From Page 1

only shield the jury so much," Naraja said.

A mistrial means the trial has been terminated or declared void, but it does not mean charges have been dropped. The prosecution will be able to dismiss the charges, a plea agreement could be discussed, or the case will re-start.

Romolor is charged with sexual assault in the first degree and disturbing the peace.

According to Naraja, the official written ruling would be released after he determines whether the prosecutorial misconduct was intentional or not. The case was being prosecuted by assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio.

"The issue whether the prosecutorial misconduct was intentionally meant to cause a mistrial remains under advisement and this would give the court time to issue its written ruling by next week," Naraja said. "This would also give the parties enough time to look at

the written ruling and decide their own course of action."

A status conference for Romolor is set for March 19 to determine how both parties want to proceed with the case.

During Romolor's jury trial last Tuesday, defense lawyer Bruce Berline called for the declaration of a mistrial, accusing Tenorio of incompetence and an inability to defend the victim and the CNMI government.

"I want to be in trial with a competent prosecutor. That's how trials are supposed to go, somebody who knows the rules of evidence, knows her duty to protect the system, protect the jurors, to protect the witnesses, and to protect the Judiciary. That's the duty of the prosecutor," he said.

Berline said Tenorio was vouching for the witness, misstated testimonies, and testified for the witness.

Tenorio argued that the Commonwealth acted in good faith and that Romolor's due process rights were not violated, therefore the motion for mistrial should not be granted.

Armed robbery at Spring Plaza parking lot

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, at approximately 10am, police received a call reporting an armed robbery within the Springs Plaza parking lot on Middle Road.

Medics and Department of Public Safety officers arrived at the scene to find the victim, a 22-year-old Korean male, with an injury on his left arm. The victim reported to the DPS Criminal Investigations Branch detectives that he was leaving the Casino Gaming Commission office

after his meeting regarding operating a business within the local casino. The victim had left the office and walked to his car. Upon unlocking the driver door, he felt a light tap on his shoulder. Once the victim turned and looked up, he noticed a male—about six feet tall, with brown skin, wearing a Tribe Marianas hoodie, and blue jeans—with a heavy Carolinian accent demanding the victim to surrender his Gucci bag.

When the victim refused,

the suspect swung a knife, grazing the victim's left arm. The suspect then grabbed the victim's bag, ran near the exit beside Bank of Hawaii as he pulled out \$11,850 in cash, dropping the bag before jumping into an older model sedan—light silver or white in color, with the back windows completely covered with yellow packing tape. The suspect fled the scene and headed south on Middle Road.

DPS detectives canvassed the scene to obtain CCTV

footage from the adjacent establishments, and were able to review all but two CCTV footage from inactive security cameras belonging to the old SM Mart located south of the Casino Gaming Commission's office.

The investigation remains ongoing by DPS CIB detectives. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the CIB office at 664-9042. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or visit www.nmicrimestoppers.net. (PR)

MARIANAS

From Page 1

a 40-percent overstay rate, while about 60 percent have been trafficked to the U.S.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said Torres will be in D.C. for the Feb. 23 to 26 National Governors Association's winter meeting.

"Coincidentally, there will be some hearings in the [U.S.] Senate and the House [of Representatives], and the governor is going to attend them. He will also be attending the inter-government agency meetings, which is an NGA annual event," Palacios said.

Before leaving for D.C., Torres wrote DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen to briefly discuss the ramification of the H-2B issue on the CNMI's complex labor situation. "As you aware, the CNMI has experienced a severe shortage in available labor, hampering economic growth and imperiling the nascent economy that we have only recently salvaged from a near decades-long economic depression."

"In conjunction with the continuing economic needs of our population, the CNMI is still in the early stages of its recovery from the damage inflicted by Super Typhoon Yutu, which damaged substantial tracts of public infrastructure and countless residential properties."

He added that the CNMI,

despite its urgent need for skilled workers related to other development projects and home rebuilding, has a limited labor force to support this. "The cause for these circumstances is manifold, complicated by our remote geographic location from the mainland U.S., limited population size, and statutory restrictions barring construction trades from the otherwise available CW-1 [CNMI-Only Transitional Worker] visa classification through the recent enactment of U.S. Public Law 115-53."

"With prior restrictions placed on workers originating in other countries in our region, the applicability of the H2-B visa program the Philippines represented nearly the sole source for our unmet labor needs. The newly announced ineligibility of Filipino nationals from the H2-B visa program has complicated our dire workforce situation, restricting legal avenues for construction labor in our region significantly, raising concerns over our stability to maintain our current economic state, and rebuild from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu," added Torres.

New approach needed

Torres said his administration is aware of the reason for the decision of federal immigration officials and respect the mandate of DHS to make sure all nationals of each country eligible for U.S. visas to comply with U.S. laws and other

regulations.

"However, I firmly believe that, in recognizing the unique circumstances of our region and the needs of the many U.S. citizens who reside here, a new approach and good faith discussion about the treatment of U.S. territories under national immigration regulations is warranted."

He added that the CNMI and Guam have the same problem when it comes to workforce. "In communication with the government of our neighbor territory of Guam, [which] face identical challenges with regard to construction labor access, it is apparent that our location, while beneficial for the national interests, hinders our ability to thrive within a competitive global economy."

"Our situation, in many respects, is complex and unintended consequences of sweeping federal actions poses an unevenly distributed effects on small, isolated jurisdictions such as the CNMI."

Torres wants continued talks with DHS and other officials about immigration and labor issues that affect the Commonwealth.

"It is my hope that this communication finds your understanding and is beneficial toward further conversations on ensuring federal actions such as this do not disproportionately affect the viability of the CNMI and the territories of the United States," said Torres.

"I stand ready to continue

this dialogue and provide you with additional detail about the effects of this action, so we may work toward solutions that are beneficial for our nation and our relationship within this partnership."

Immigration hearing

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the House Natural Resources Committee has already invited individuals and other officials concerning the recent immigration decisions made by the Trump administration that have adverse effects on the CNMI—especially labor.

Sablan said the hearing—set on Feb. 27—would focus on H.R. 560, a legislation that he introduced that would give CNMI permanent status for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, caregivers, and other groups who were granted humanitarian parole by the Obama administration.

"Shortly after his inauguration, President [Donald] Trump ordered parole would only be used on a case-by-case basis, not for categories of people. As a result, about 1,500 people will have to leave the Marianas by June 29," said Sablan.

"[H.R. 560] provides protection for them, as well as for long-term workers and investors. The hearing will also look at the Trump administration's decision not to allow workers from the Philippines to enter the U.S. on H visas."

ERMITANIO

From Page 1

Rota. Renato Benghit represented Tinian.

Ermitanio was presented his plaque last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan during the culmination of the weeklong Pupil Transportation Office celebration.

"You all deserve the honor for what you do every day," said Board of Education chair Janice A. Tenorio. "All of you are winners."

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña emphasized the role of the PTO staff in the safety and security of students. "You wake up very early in the morning and go home very late just to make sure our public school students are safely home from school," he said. "No matter how exhausted you all are in driving our buses, driving our students to and from school and home, you do it with a smile. You always make a time to welcome our kids, no matter if it is a good day or otherwise."

Ermitanio appeared dumb-

struck. "I would like to thank everyone for this honor," he said, adding that he "didn't know what to say."

Muña, who reminisced about his time as an associate commissioner for administrative services in 2012, said that the OPT "has come a long way" since then.

"I thank you for your professionalism and for continuing to improve," he added.

PSS has already announced five of its six annual state-level recognition awards. So far, Roselle Carreon of Oleai Elementary School holds the 2019 CNMI PSS State Teacher of the Year award, Michael Berbes of Hopwood Middle School holds the 2019 CNMI PSS State Instructor of the Year award, Grace Belyea of Garapan Elementary School and Salote Kesol of Hopwood Middle School are tied for the CNMI PSS Teacher Aide of the Year honor, and Jillion Pladevega of Hopwood Middle School is the 2019 CNMI PSS State Counselor of the Year.

The CNMI PSS State Librarian of the Year has yet to be announced.

Fraud, 2 other claims vs Imperial Pacific dismissed

The federal court has dismissed three claims, including fraud, in the lawsuit filed by a former VIP services host against the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino.

At a hearing last Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona Court granted Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's motion to dismiss Shirley Loh's second and fourth claims for violations of the Commonwealth Minimum

Wage and Hourly Act.

Manglona did not dismiss Loh's other two Minimum Wage Hour Act violation claims as they are on the federal basis.

Manglona also granted IPI's motion to dismiss without prejudice Loh's fifth cause of action—fraud.

Dismissal with prejudice means Loh may amend her complaint to support her fraud claim.

Manglona gave Loh until Feb. 28 to file her amended

complaint.

The judge advised the parties that she will be issuing a written decision based on her rulings that day, Thursday.

Loh is suing IPI for allegedly not paying her minimum wage and overtime wages and refusing to give her customers' tips.

Loh's claims are for alleged violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act and Minimum Wage Hour Act and conversion and fraud.

Loh is demanding that IPI be

made to pay her the minimum wage and overtime pay. She also wants her share of tips.

IPI, through counsel Kelley M. Butcher, asked the court to dismiss Loh's Commonwealth wage claim and claim for fraud.

Butcher said the Commonwealth wage claim as alleged in the complaint should be dismissed with prejudice as they are barred by the statute of limitations.

Dismissal with prejudice means Loh can no longer re-file the wage claims.

Butcher said the fraud claim should be dismissed as it fails to allege all of the elements of fraud and fails to allege fraud with particularity.

Loh is a citizen of Singapore. She currently lives there. She worked for IPI from Oct. 15, 2015, to August 2016.

In Loh's opposition to the

motion to dismiss, counsel William Fitzgerald insisted that the fraud claim is clear and plausible or convincing.

Fitzgerald, however, concedes that Loh's Commonwealth wage claim brought under local law should be dismissed on statute of limitations grounds.

On Loh's fraud and conversion claim, Fitzgerald said money was given by customers to IPI with the direction that it be given to VIP hosts as "tips." Fitzgerald Loh's supervisor, Yuki Xia, acting on behalf of IPI, received this money and fraudulently converted it.

According to the minutes of Thursday's hearing, at the start of the proceeding Manglona informed the parties that she had received and reviewed the filings and advised them

that she was inclined to grant the motion to dismiss the two causes of action.

Manglona also stated she was inclined to dismiss the fraud claim, but would allow Loh to amend the complaint as to that issue.

Fitzgerald stated the local wage and hour claim was conceded to be beyond the statute of limitation, but not the federal.

Manglona stated that this was as to second and fourth causes of action and these are the local CNMI Minimum Wage and Hourly act violation claims or unpaid minimum wage and overtime.

As to the fifth cause of action, Manglona was inclined to grant the motion to dismiss as to fraud and not as to the conversion claim.

Both Fitzgerald and Butcher accepted the court's rulings. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Lane closed for Bubble Color Run

The southbound lane along Beach Road will be closed on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019, from 4am to 8am for the Triple J 5K 2019 race for runner's safety. Start point is behind Garapan Farmer's Market to proceed south. Turn-around point is 2.5km past the Quartermaster Intersection at Blue Beach House Hotel. *(PR)*

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on Feb. 18-22 at the island of Farallon de Medinilla, from 8am to 7pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to

mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. *(PR)*

Chamoru commission meetings

The Kumisión i Fino' Chamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Tao-tao Tāno' (Commission on Chamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold a special meeting on Feb. 21, 2019, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. The meeting will take place in the former Guam Museum building or the Garden House in Hagåtña. Agenda items are approval of Feb. 14,

2019, minutes and discussion of proposed press conference. Work session will follow.

For more information, contact Kumisión chair/Gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritária Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. *(PR)*

Xavier High School entrance exam

Xavier High School in the Federated States of Micronesia will be conducting its entrance exam here on Saipan on Feb. 23, Saturday, at Mt. Carmel School. The exam, open to all seventh and eighth graders, will be held from 8:15am to 11:30am. For more information, call or text Friends of Xavier-CNMI president Ivan A. Blanco at 2858768. *(PR)*



Department of Veterans Affairs VISIT TO SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA

AVA Benefits Counselor will be in CNMI

Saipan

Place: CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office
Date: Tuesday - February 19, 2019
Time: 9am to 4pm

Tinian

Place: Mayor's Office
Date: Wednesday - February 20, 2019
Time: 8am to 3pm

Rota

Place: Mayor's Office, Conference Hall
Date: Thursday - February 21, 2019
Time: 9am to 3:30pm



The Benefits Counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CPD) FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019 AND SOLICITATION FOR COMMENTS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** \$1,361,000.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$870,145.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$421,257.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$69,598.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2019.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

- *Program Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be utilized for the following projects: Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court; Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center; Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Youth Center; Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof.*
- *Program Year 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG) funds will be used for repaid re-housing of homeless families in the CNMI.*
- *Program Year 2019 HOME funds will continue to be used to assist families in new construction, rehabilitation, and purchase of a home.*
- *Consolidated Plan: The NMHC is preparing its Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan and is soliciting comments and input on the priority needs, goals, and objectives for the next five (5) years.*

A briefing will be conducted to the public to discuss regarding the CPD program funds. The briefing will also enable the community to comment on the use of the program funds and to obtain information regarding the CPD program process.

The schedules and venues for the briefing are as follows:

Rota: Sinapalo Youth Center; Sinapalo: March 08, 2019: 3:00 p.m.

Tinian: Mayor's Office Conference Room, San Jose: March 12, 2019: 3:00 p.m.

Saipan: NMHC Central Office Conference Room, Garapan: March 15, 2019: 3:00 p.m.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the briefing so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD programs, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

Hopwood moves to temp campus tomorrow

The Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School would be holding a ceremony tomorrow to welcome their students as they move to a new temporary campus.

The school will welcome

students into a new temporary campus next to the Koblerville Elementary School; the school's full-day schedule from 8:30am to 3:20pm daily resumes tomorrow.

The ceremony would

start at 8am, according to a statement from the Public School System.

In a previous interview with Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag, she noted that the students, along

with the staff of the middle school, are all excited to move out of the Marianas High School campus, where they have been having classes in the morning while the high school uses the campus

in the afternoon.

"They are excited because we would have our own full-day sessions, including more after-school activities for the students," she previously said. "Everybody is looking

forward to the new temporary campus."

The temporary campus across the Koblerville Elementary School consists of 42 classrooms for about 1,000 students. *(Erwin Encinares)*

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The proximity of the Marianas—the CNMI and Guam—to Japan makes it easier for Toyota diehards and would-be buyers to come check the 2020 Corolla.

You read it correctly—the 2020 Corolla—the 12th generation of Toyota's subcompact vehicle that was first introduced in 1966 and developed into one of the best-selling cars in the world, making it a major player in the competitive sedan market.

The 2020 Corolla is now on Saipan—fresh off the boat—and ready for curious car buyers to test drive. That's unlike the North American market, where they have to wait at least two more months as the new Corolla will make its debut this spring.

Ernie A. Galito, Atkins Kroll Inc. marketing and communication director, said that the company is getting the new Corollas this early by taking advantage of the Marianas' proximity to Japan, its geographical location being just nearly 1,600 miles away from the Marianas.

"We're really excited for the 2020 Corolla. First of all, it is part of the new generation of Toyota design automobiles—



JON PEREZ
The 2020 Toyota Corolla has the power for a smooth ride up Navy Hill.

the Toyota New Global Architecture, which means it is more driver-centric. To make it driver-centric, they [Toyota] wants to make sure that it has a lot of safety features," Galito told *Saipan Tribune*.

That includes making sure the new Toyota vehicles have performance features and a lot of comfort, so that the

driver is comfortable when driving the vehicle.

"It has got some characteristic sidelines to make it a little bit sportier looking than previous Corollas," he added.

And like the 2019 RAV4, which AK rolled out last December, the new Corolla gives drivers more visibility and a load of other safety

features for a comfortable and worry-free ride. It has blind spot monitoring where lights would blink telling you there's a car that's close to you and a pre-collision system that stops the car even before you step on the brake

It also has dynamic radar cruise control, lane departure alert with steer assist, lane

tracing assist, automatic high beams, and road sign assist.

The new Corolla has a lower center of gravity, which is also part of TNGA, but has a wider stance. Short and stout, but stable as the tires provide more traction on the road, especially when you're making a wide or a sudden turn.


Saipan Tribune took the

new Corolla for a spin and the first thing you would notice is the sleek new design. Once you get in the driver's seat, you would hardly notice the engine running but it quickly responds once you step on the gas and begin to cruise.

The wider stance elevates the Corolla's stability. I tried rocking the vehicle while moving at 40mph and you hardly notice the car swerve. Don't be fooled by the Corolla's new look; it has the power when going up Navy Hill.

Another cool feature of the new Corolla is that a spare tire is no longer needed, giving you more trunk space. The Corolla comes with an inflator—liquid would go inside your tire and seal any puncture, giving you the chance to drive to the nearest tire shop to have it fixed or replaced. The liquid inside the inflator would expand and cover the holes. If your tires are still a little bit deflated, it also comes with a compressor pump.

The Corolla's base model LE starts at \$24,495 and offers a 139-horsepower engine with 126 foot-pounds of torque while the Sport and Hybrid models are coming in later. The new Corolla has a 1.8-liter, 4-cylinder engine that offer fuel economy of at least 29mpg for city driving and 38mpg in highways.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

February 18, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- Preliminary Matters
 - Roll Call
 - Election of Officers
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - November 19, 2018
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
- REPORTS
 - Executive Director's Report
 - Administrative Matters
 - FY 2020 Budget
 - Personnel Matters
 - Loan Matters
 - Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/ Economic Development Activities
 - HCR Consulting LLC Proposal
 - MyPros Proposal
 - Comptroller's Report
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Housing Financing
 - Agricultural & Fishermen's Derby
 - CPA Resolution
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Post Modern Apprenticeship – Joint Participation Program
 - Pacific Basin Development Council
 - Garapan Revitalization/ MFH Enterprises
- OTHER MATTERS
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Adora R. Tudela
and Sylvan Tudela
P.O. Box 503276 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
989-5880/3811

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the matter of the :
Adoption of : FCD-AD-CIVIL
M.W.A.R : ACTION NO.
Minor Child : 19-0079
By :
Adora R. Tudela : NOTICE OF
and Sylvan Tudela : HEARING
Petitioner(s) :

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 29, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 14th day of Feb., 2019.

Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
3rd Floor, Marianas Business Plaza,
Ste. 603, Susupe, Saipan
PMB 419, PPP Box 10,000 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-9005 Fax: (670) 235-9007

Attorney for Petitioner
Margarita Torres Flores

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter Of : Civil Action
The Estate Of : No.: 19-0048-CV

Edward : NOTICE OF
Mendiola : HEARING and
Fleming, : NOTICE TO
Decedent : CREDITORS

TO: Creditors and Interested Claimants

Notice is hereby given that Margarita Torres Flores of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administratrix of the Estate of Edward Mendiola Fleming, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The attorney of record is Joey P. San Nicolas, Esq. 6th Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 603, Susupe Village, PMB 419, PPP Box 10,000, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for the 14th day of March, 2019, at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 9:00am. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 12th day of February, 2019

/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita

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OPA's Muña becomes a certified fraud examiner

Jolene Nicole Muña of the Office of the Public Auditor has passed the examination to gain the designation of certified fraud examiner by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

In order to become a CFE, Muña met a stringent set of criteria and passed a rigorous exam administered by the ACFE while also agreeing to abide by the CFE code of professional ethics. Muña has also demonstrated

knowledge in four areas critical to the fight against fraud: fraudulent financial transactions, fraud prevention and deterrence, legal elements of fraud and fraud investigation.

The preparation materials and exam itself was made accessible to Muña through the Technical Assistance Program or TAP provided by the Department of the Interior. OPA applied for and was awarded the TAP grant in 2015.

Muña has been employed with OPA since January 2016 and is currently an auditor. She graduated from Pacific Pioneer College with a bachelor's degree in Business Management in 2011 and earned a master's degree in Human Resource Management from Argosy University in 2013. Aside from in-house training at OPA, Muña also attended a two-week training program called the Lakewood Experience sponsored by the

Office of the Inspector General in Lakewood, Colorado, in June 2018 as well as various trainings offered by the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors and the USA Graduate School.

The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with more than 85,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring pub-



Jolene Nicole Muña of the Office of the Public Auditor has passed the examination to gain the designation of certified fraud examiner by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NMIA DONATIONS

The officers and members of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association—Eli Buenaventura (NMIA president and general manager of Calvo's Insurance), Suzi Perez (Northern Marianas Insurance Association vice president and manager of Takagi & Associates), Gol Corpuz (NMIA treasurer and general manager of Century Insurance), Jessica Sablan (NMIA director and supervisor of Pacifica Insurance), Terry DL Guerrero (NMIA member and president of Equitable Insurance) and Anthony Benavente (NMIA member and supervisor of Associated Insurance Underwriter) presented a gift of \$500 each to Karidat Social Services, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for Valentine's Day. NMIA Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro, American Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, and program coordinator Annie Lizama of the Salvation Army received the donations on their organization's behalf.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



lic confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession.

CFE designees represent the highest standards held by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and possess expertise in all aspects of the anti-fraud profession.

CFEs have the ability to: examine data and records to detect and trace fraudulent transactions; interview suspects to

obtain information and confessions; write investigation reports; advise clients as to their findings; testify at trial; understand the law as it relates to fraud and fraud investigations; and identify the underlying factors that motivate individuals to commit fraud.

CFEs on six continents have investigated more than 1 million suspected cases of civil and criminal fraud. (PR)

'Study marijuana seeds to be imported'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Once the CNMI Cannabis Commission is officially organized and releases the implementing guidelines of Public Law 20-66, it should study what type of marijuana plants and seeds would be allowed to be imported to the Commonwealth, according to Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan).

P.L. 20-66 or the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 lifts the prohibition of marijuana in the Commonwealth and regulates its use, whether for medicinal and recreational use. Right now, marijuana use is still illegal in the CNMI, until the commission comes up with the guidelines.

Igisomar said based on his research and the feedback he has received, there are types of marijuana plants that treat specific diseases or medical conditions. "Whether it is for seizure or for memory loss, there are specific seeds."

Igisomar first introduced a marijuana bill in the CNMI Senate but it got snagged due to revenue-generating provisions that required it to come from the CNMI House of Representatives.

In his version of the cannabis bill, Igisomar did not discuss the type of cannabis plants and

seeds can be imported.

"There were discussions about seeds but I did not want to entertain them at that time, because we already have the federal government that is not necessarily favorable to this. Then there's the interstate issue that we also have to deal with when it comes to seeds and importation," Igisomar said. "I did not want to [include] that in the bill, because that would encroach on the federal government in respect to what is not allowable in the interstate exchange of drugs."

Igisomar said he is leaving all that to the commission. "So, I hope when the commission comes together, they would address a lot of things on how this bill was formulated. I know that it makes sense now why it was not introduced. Eventually, when the time comes, I hope we have to figure out how to import seeds that treat specific or certain illnesses without violating federal law."

CNMI Division of Customs director Joe Mafnas, in an earlier interview, said that the law does not yet clearly state what plants are allowed to enter the CNMI. "Seeds are not yet allowed to be imported or plants. If that is what the law says, then we will have to confiscate it at the ports."

SBA Disaster Loan Center on Tinian to close down

The U.S. Small Business Administration will close its Tinian Disaster Loan Outreach Center on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019, at 6pm.

SBA has approved 113 disaster business loans for \$16 million and 1,307 disaster loans for homeowners and renters for \$73 million.

"SBA opened the center to provide personalized assistance to Tinian business owners and residents who were affected by Typhoon Mangkhut that occurred Sept. 10-11, 2018, and Super Typhoon Yutu that occurred Oct. 24-26, 2018. Until the Tinian center closes, SBA representatives will continue to be available to meet with businesses and residents to answer their questions, explain SBA's disaster loan program and close their approved disaster loans," said SBA director Tanya N. Garfield.

On Tinian, businesses and

residents can still meet with SBA representatives at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center, Department of Commerce, San Jose, Monday to Wednesday, 9am to 6pm. No appointment is necessary. The center will close on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 6pm.

"SBA representatives will also continue to be available at the SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center on Saipan to meet with businesses and residents to help them close their approved disaster loans," Garfield said.

The Disaster Loan Outreach Center on Saipan is open on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary. It is located at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe and is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 9am to 6pm. Both centers are closed today, Feb. 18, for Presidents Day.

Although the deadline to apply for a loan for property

damage has passed, small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size still have until July 1, 2019, to apply for an economic injury disaster loan to help meet working capital needs caused by Typhoon Mangkhut.

Also, even though the deadline to apply for a loan for property damage has passed for Super Typhoon Yutu, small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size still have until July 26, 2019, to apply for an economic injury disaster loan to help meet working capital needs.

Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage. Business owners may apply

online using SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Interest rates are 3.675 percent for businesses and 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

To receive additional disaster assistance information, visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. (PR)



TOUCHDOWN FOR THE KNIGHTS!


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At this year's Pacific Trading Super Bowl party at Pacific Islands Club, Mount Carmel School AlumKnight and supporter Norman Tenorio won the grand prize in the party's raffle, a 55" Polaroid LED TV sponsored by Triple J Truckload Store. Upon winning the TV, he donated it to his alma mater, which put it to use right away as a video kiosk in the main hallway of the Maturana building. The school used the occasion to also launch a video version of its daily newsletter, the *Knights Herald*, on the school's YouTube channel. The Video *Knights Herald* can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oZfmrkNNO&list=PLZbb8PaphMYVGn4T4v0OkvS_pLgns-waQ

PGFC KNIGHTS


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School congratulates her PGFC Knights on their recent victories: Justin Mallari (first place, Readers Forum Masters; first place, Impromptu); Wayne Ano (first place, Impromptu); Carly Dela Cruz (third place, Readers Forum; Masters, third place Impromptu); Angel Tengco (fourth place, Impromptu); and Sarah Angela Melchor (fifth place, Readers Form Masters).



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-012

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of installing new service saddles, corporation stops, PVC service lines from the CUC water main to the meter, replacing defective water meters, installing new service laterals and new water meters, properly sizing existing service lines, installing a water meter on existing CUC service lines without a meter, relocating existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, reconfiguring the orientation of water meters to easily identify customers, removing existing manifold systems, and as required, installing new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing. It may also be required to connect existing service lines to a new meter and/or house piping.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer - via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Procurement Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-19-008

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-19-008 -Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 4, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contract Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 33Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Blurring the meaning of 'national emergency'

America has survived many national emergencies. Presidents have dealt with innumerable crises. Being forced to sign a compromise-laden spending bill doesn't qualify.

The announcement Thursday that President Donald Trump will declare a national emergency is an act of petulance. Trump's spokeswoman said he would approve a stopgap budget to keep the government operating. But she also said he would go around Congress after lawmakers wouldn't give him the money he wants to build a wall on the southern border. Trump was thwarted by House Democrats so he'll show them: He'll invoke the emergency powers of the presidency to tap other government sources for funding.

Assuming Trump follows through on his threat, he likely faces a court challenge. Legal scholars have said that declaring an emergency could give the White House authority to divert the U.S. military from other construction projects to work on Trump's wall. But there is no statutory definition of "emergency," and the laws that may empower Trump to sidestep Congress don't give him carte blanche. There are technical requirements that must be met in order for the military to put aside other construction duties to build a wall.

That's all related to the question of whether Trump can declare a national emergency to build a wall. Our view is that he shouldn't.

His threat wildly oversteps the limits of presidential powers. Congress makes the laws and approves budgets. Presidents have veto power but they aren't emperors.

Trump sought \$5.7 billion in a spending bill for the wall and tangled with those unyielding House Democrats. The impasse led to the previous 35-day-long partial government shutdown. This week, all sides came together to hash out the spending bill that gives Trump just \$1 billion or so for barriers. Without this deal, the government would go back into shutdown mode Friday at midnight. So Trump relented. Now he wants to bully his way to building a wall by justifying his action on national security and humanitarian grounds.

Border security is vital to the country, but Trump's obsession with building a physical wall isn't justified by facts on the ground. This is his political preoccupation, not an existential crisis for the United States. If he declares a national emergency that survives court scrutiny, Trump claims a victory at real cost to the balance of powers between the presidency and Congress. He undermines the Constitution.

In recent decades presidents have sought to expand their authority through the use of executive action. Trump's threat to assert powers previously invoked during times of military conflict or natural disaster takes presidential prerogative to a new level.

If he succeeds, how will Trump next seek to impose his will on Americans? And what about the next president?

(c)2019 Chicago Tribune



America has a farm labor shortage. We need a better guest worker program

Americans expect a lot from farmers and ranchers: fresh, unblemished fruits and vegetables, locally grown and responsibly harvested.

In California, farmers and ranchers produce more than 400 commodities. That's more than a third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of the country's fruits and nuts. California farm receipts exceeded \$50 billion in 2017.

This prodigious output isn't automatic and doesn't happen by chance. American agriculture relies on hundreds of thousands of skilled workers to plant the fields, tend the crops, harvest the produce and pack it for markets both here and abroad.

We don't have enough of these workers.

This is true not just in California, which employs more agricultural workers than any other state. I hear the same refrain from dairy farmers in Wisconsin; cherry producers in Michigan; tobacco growers in North Carolina; sweet potato farmers in Louisiana; citrus growers in Florida; and livestock farmers in Texas.

Farming's labor system is broken. We need to fix it.

Let's start with a few truths. The first is that less than 2 percent of Americans grow up on farms. But shifting demographics are only part of the challenge.

Farm work is episodic and often seasonal, and fruits and vegetables have a short window to be harvested, packed and shipped to market. Dairy workers have the opposite problem: Cows don't take a day off. They must be milked twice, sometimes three times, a day, 365 days a year. In either case, farm labor means long hours of hard work.

Most Americans don't see strong economic prospects in farming. But for many in Mexico or Central America, American farms and ranches represent a cherished opportunity.

And yet, for farmers, making sure the person you hire is here legally is often beyond reach. The law tells farmers not to question a job applicant's papers unless they are obviously false. If a farmer questions a worker about his or her name, Social Security number or green card, the farmer is open to a lawsuit by the worker or even the U.S. Justice Department.

Mandating E-Verify for agriculture without an expanded guest worker program would make the situation worse. Instead it would decimate the existing agricultural workforce without providing any workers to take their place.

These realities—a dearth of Americans who want to work on farms, people from outside the U.S. who do want to work on farms, and a law that virtually compels farmers to hire workers who are in the country illegally—give us the situation we have today.

The American Farm Bureau was encouraged last month when Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose), the new chair of the House Immigration Subcommittee, proposed to tackle one aspect of this issue. Lofgren introduced H.R. 641, the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2019, which, if passed, would provide a pathway to legalization for agricultural workers who are already here.

By ZIPPY DUVALL

Los Angeles Times

Zippy Duvall is president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

But this bill isn't enough. U.S. agriculture needs a guest worker program that will help us replace the workers covered by the Lofgren bill as they age out or move to other sectors of the economy.

The current H-2A program, which is supposed to assist farmers and ranchers, too often falls short in meeting growers' or workers' needs. California growers traditionally don't employ their workers through such arrangements. As a result, although H-2A is expanding in California, it still represents a small portion of the workforce.

The guest worker program needs to work for all growers in all states. It must be flexible for growers in California by providing employment for at-will workers. And it should grant flexibility for growers who cannot construct housing, by allowing them to use a housing voucher for workers.

Some claim that guest worker programs depress U.S. wages, but the situation in agriculture clearly shows they do not. These jobs routinely pay well above minimum wage.

Others argue that H-2A workers surrender too many rights when they sign contracts, but workers who break the law and work outside the system are far more vulnerable to exploitation. Such workers often arrive after paying a coyote a hefty fee. They have no guaranteed housing, as with H-2A, and they will find it harder to return to the same farm year after year.

The contractual arrangement under the current H-2A program has worked for some growers, and it should remain available to those who need it. But the wage structure in H-2A does not reflect market realities.

In fact, the H-2A wage is not really a wage at all: It's a tally based on often questionable surveys undertaken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture aimed at protecting a worker who doesn't exist.

Better data that reflect actual wages paid to real workers would protect both workers and growers and support continued U.S. agricultural production.

Lofgren should be commended for her leadership. Now the hard work must begin by growers, worker advocates, Republicans, Democrats, the Trump administration and Congress. We need a 21st century solution that works for growers and workers alike.

Free app shows what Medicare covers

Let's say you go for your annual physical and your doctor recommends that you get a hearing and balance test. Or an electrocardiogram, EKG. Or a Hepatitis B screening.

Does your Original Medicare cover these services? Now there's a quick way to find out, using your smartphone or tablet.

It's Medicare's new "What's Covered" app and it's free. You can use the app right there in the doctor's office, hospital, or anywhere else you use your phone or tablet.

The app displays general cost, coverage and eligibility details for medical items and services covered by Medicare Part A and Part B. You can search or browse to learn what's covered and not covered; how and when to get covered benefits; and basic cost information.

You can also get a list of Medicare-covered preventive health services, like flu shots and cancer and diabetes screenings.

"What's Covered" is available through the Apple App Store and Google Play. Search for "What's covered" or "Medicare" and download the app to your phone. Once "What's Covered" is installed, you can use it to get reliable Medicare information even when you don't have access to your computer.

"What's Covered" is Medicare's first app. It was created to meet the needs of the growing population of people with Medicare. That population is projected to increase from nearly 56 million beneficiaries in 2016 to more than 80 million beneficiaries in 2030—almost 50 percent.

About two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries use the internet daily or almost daily, and questions about what Medicare covers are some of the most frequent inquiries that my agency, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, receives.

There are about 15 million page views annually for coverage-related content on Medicare.gov and 1-800 MEDICARE receives more than 3 million coverage-related calls each year.

If you're reading this on your mobile device, you can get the app directly from the Apple App Store or Google Play buttons below:

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.medicare.coverage>,

Apple App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/whats-covered/id1444143600?mt=8>.

Easy access to accurate, reliable Medicare coverage information is just one new feature of the eMedicare initiative, launched in 2018 to empower beneficiaries with cost and quality information. Other tools in the eMedicare suite include:

- Enhanced interactive online decision support to help people better understand and evaluate their Medicare coverage options and costs between Medicare and Medicare Advantage (<https://www.medicare.gov/medicarecoverageoptions/>).

- A new online service that lets people quickly see how different coverage choices will affect their estimated out-of-pocket costs (<https://www.medicare.gov/oopc/>).

By **GREG DILL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).



- New price transparency tools that let consumers compare the national average costs of certain surgical procedures between settings, so people can see what they'll pay for procedures done in a hospital outpatient department versus an ambulatory surgical center (<https://www.medicare.gov/procedure-price-lookup/>).

- A new webchat option in the Medicare Plan Finder (<https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx>).

- New easy-to-use surveys across Medicare.gov so consumers can continue to tell us what they want.

The eMedicare initiative expands and improves on current consumer service options. People with Medicare will continue to have access to paper copies of the "Medicare & You" handbook and Medicare Summary Notices.

And by the way, Medicare does indeed cover hearing and balance tests, EKGs, and Hepatitis B screenings.

Social media robs families of human connection

By **EILEEN POLLOCK**

THE BALTIMORE SUN

I often see a father and son, about 10 years old, at the local Starbucks, each staring at their individual smartphones. They silently eat, but exchange no conversation with each other. They don't even look up to glance at each other's faces. I feel dreadfully sorry for the son, and even for the father who is missing what it means to have a son.

This is to me the apogee of the destructiveness of addiction to social media. I often see people glued to their phones—but a father and son having breakfast together, yet apart, is painful to witness.

I have no involvement whatsoever in social media, never have had. It's easier never to start than to try to quit. I should talk. I'm a true Luddite. Not only do I have only a flip phone, I also have not owned a television for the past 20 years or so. I enjoy listening to NPR and classical music on the crisp reception of my Bose radio. I have no presence on Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram or whatever the addiction of the moment is. I do enjoy looking at YouTube, and when I realized it was taking up too much of my time and devouring space in my mind, I took immediate measures.

Using the computer was reducing my ability to concentrate, and I was determined to return to actual book reading to restore

my ability to think and to reason.

I created a special reading space in my living room. I moved in a comfortable armchair and matching ottoman, bought a beautiful reading lamp with Tiffany-style shade and placed a side table for a smaller lamp and a coaster for my drink. There I sit and read, books from my own collection that I have never gotten around to finishing. My new setup is conveniently far from my desk computer.

Speaking of computers, I have been known to ask acquaintances with smartphones what they like about it. It seems to be a convenient way to pay for things, but so is a debit or credit card, or even—gasp—cash. I notice how vague their answers are, along the lines of "oh, it's amazing!" or "I don't know what I'd do without it." I don't think they know what it adds to their lives, or they would be able to verbalize it.

I know what I am doing without it. I'm writing an essay on why I don't need a smartphone. No one has been able to convince me that an expensive form of technology is necessary for my happiness. I rarely even use the flip phone, except when away from home and my near-obsolete landline. I keep the cell phone mainly for safety.

Some of the time I save by not using social media (except for limited e-mail to a few friends), I use going to the library to find new picture books for my 5-year-old grand-nephew. I read

to him when he gets home from preschool almost every weekday. This is our quiet time together. He is fascinated by Curious George and can listen almost infinitely to the mischievous monkey's adventures. He has preferences: He rejects stubborn pigeons, and he has reached his limit on Runaway Bunny.

Once I told him, "When you are 6, you'll be in first grade and will be able to read books yourself." He leaned his head back on the sofa, a beatific secret smile lighting his face. He would love to learn to read, I realized. And he will, because his home has no television and no computer either. He has absolutely no access to technology at the age of 5. I found "Curious George Learns the Alphabet" for him, and he enjoyed learning the sounds of the letters. But he is less interested in the technical aspects of learning to read at this stage. His free time—and he has much—is spent with his 7-year-old brother, practicing standing on his head, playing board games and visiting his 5-year-old friends nearby.

All this so many children are missing. My grand-nephew has a healthy 1950s childhood. Not so the 10-year-old son sitting, wordless, in Starbucks with his equally silent father, each in thrall to an inanimate piece of technology. How many parents have lost the human connection with their children, with their friends, with their world?

Eileen Pollock lives in Baltimore.

To The Average Joe Beneath a MAGA Banner

Dismayed and disturbed by 45's declaration of a national emergency on the Mexican border and delighted by Anne Coulter's comment of Feb. 15, 2019, I came up with a trilogy of sonnets for President's Day 2019. On Monday let us remember and respect all our U.S. Presidents with the exception of the present Electoral College anomaly. Let us work toward CNMI citizens voting in future U.S. presidential elections.

"This land is your land; this land is my land"

—Woody Guthrie

Jose can you see a new direction, a new leader for our country other than the mean-minded muddled repetitive rocky road we are now being coerced, bullied, and bigly bossed through by a seriously disturbed liar with logic less than elementary

Will we see again the fireworks red and blue glare in the air on Capitol Hill grounds, cities and towns, a local county fair will the new blue wave in the House of Representatives legislate repairs to the damaged democracy where we live

Will the new blue wave in their first years early light lead us away from an increasing authoritarian right will the new blue wave be able to mitigate and save our democratic principles in the home of the brave

If so Joe, how beautiful for America's political skies

clearing clouds of doubt and waves of POTUS lies.

Bigly Evidence and Self Analysis

"Wanna see my picture on the cover of the Rolling Stone."

—lyrics by poet, author Shel Silverstein (1930 - 1990)

I got a BIGLY red tie and I'm a BIGLY red guy
I want to FAKE AMERICA'S FATE AGAIN
I'll take Russian Communist Reds over DOJ Feds
I want to lick America's hundred dollar plate again
I'm up and down the 2020 POTUS campaign road
using insulting nicknames for my opponents again
I like Mar A Lago more than my 'dump' WH abode
the Oval Office is the place for my executive orders
since three years old my ship of dreams has come in
child millionaire, self named 'King of Debt' by 50
for more than 20 years I've hired many illegal aliens
I avoid paying taxes any way I can, I'm very thrifty
a blow hard and go hard, a pathological liar to boot
I throw baby temper tantrums if my haircut isn't cute.

Sing a Song of Inexperience Pocketful of Lies

"Look, the only national emergency is that our president is an idiot"

—A comment on Feb. 15, 2019, by Anne Coulter, an American conservative social and political commentator. (1961 -)

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune






Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

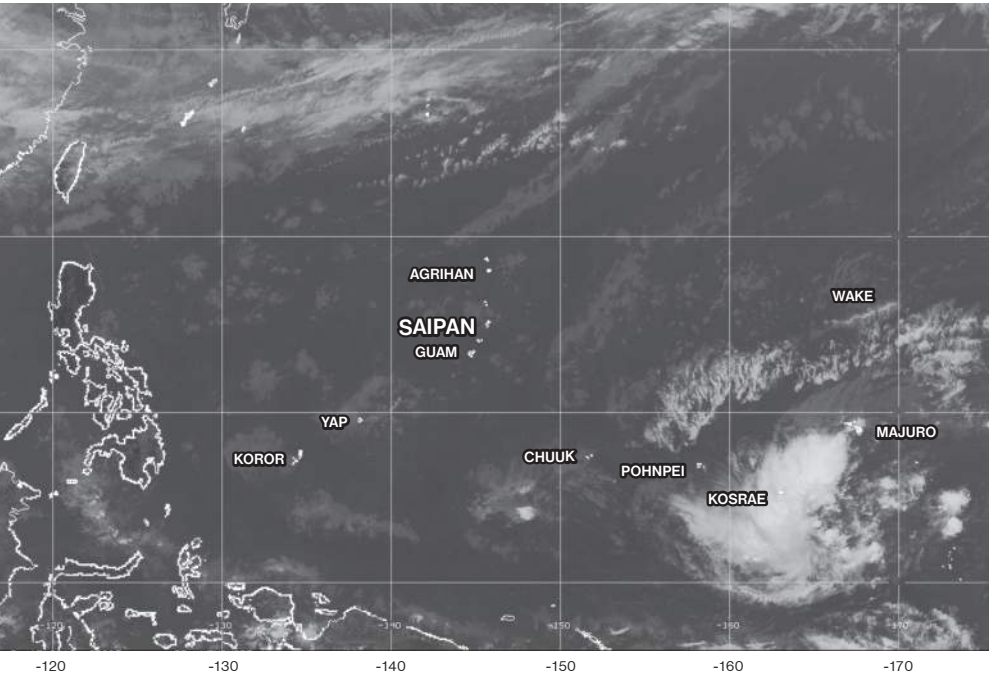


About the WALL and the weak argumental basis of his answer bringing a more rapid decline to his fall a metastasis cancer a complete lack of insight inability to see the future with myopia which includes dramatic astigmatic vision in a DJT dystopia constantly totally distorted by his delusional imaginary utopia he acts with impunity seen on Axios tape talking genital gropia In the WH Rose Garden in a singsong manner which featured 45 working his way through an anticipated legal procedure he wants more bucks so a declaration of a National Emergency for a coast to coast Mexican border wall and border security but there is no evidence of emergency or sense of urgency in a rambling 45 minute off the cuff talk 45 declared with surety "I DON'T NEED TO DO THIS." in today's declaration about that

then flew to his Mar-a-Lago golf course where illegal workers sat.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Breezy during the daylight hours.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Breezy during the daylight hours.		Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:15 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.
Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows almost no showers within the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates northeast winds of 17 to 22 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal 7 to 9 foot combined seas from east-northeast composed of everything from 7 second wind waves to 17 second swell, with the peak being around 9 to 10 seconds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 76°	
Palau	Showers	83° / 76°	
Yap	Showers	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	75° / 64°	
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 21°	
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 69°	
Honolulu	Showers	78° / 66°	
London	Cloudy	55° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	61° / 42°	
Manila	Sunny	88° / 73°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	70° / 54°	
Miami	Showers	80° / 74°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	42° / 23°	
Osaka	Rain	54° / 52°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55° / 37°	
Busan	Rain	54° / 39°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 41°	
Salem	Cloudy	65° / 52°	
San Francisco	Sunny	53° / 41°	
Seoul	Rain	45° / 25°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 52°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	47° / 30°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:27 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.53	
7:31 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.98	
12:55 PM	LOW TIDE	1.12	
5:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.06	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:40 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:08 AM	4:54 PM
Tuesday	-	6:06 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday	-	7:00 AM	7:03 PM
Thursday	-	7:51 AM	8:05 PM
Friday	-	8:39 AM	9:04 PM

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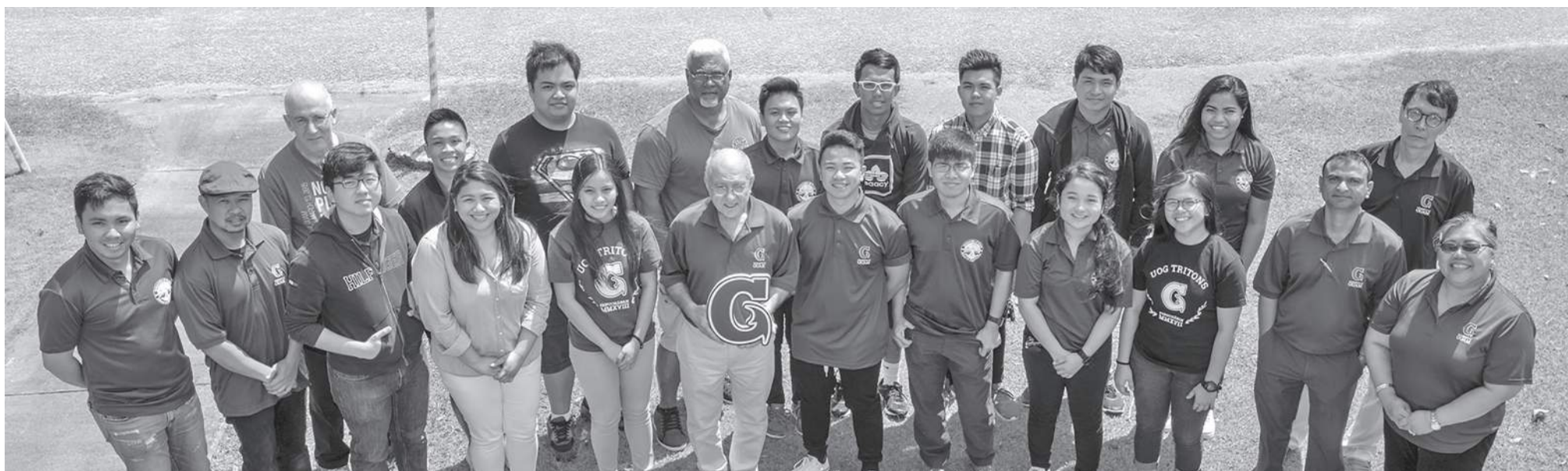
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily			UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily		
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4			UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily			7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		
						7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1			7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily			OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)						HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN					
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1			JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4		
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4			JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM		
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM		
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR			UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM			UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM								
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7		
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7			UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7		
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM			UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6		
‘						UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM		
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM			UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



Students, faculty, and staff of the University of Guam School of Engineering celebrate the school's newly approved four-year bachelor of science in civil-engineering program on Feb. 13.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

SIS has a doctor in the house

Saipan International School headmaster Ron Snyder has just returned from England where he successfully passed the defense of his doctoral thesis.

Snyder has been the headmaster at Saipan International School since 2016. His wife, Kim Church, is an English and AP Capstone teacher at the school and his daughter, Anika, is a Grade 11 student.

Snyder has been working on his doctor of education degree at the University of Bath for the last eight years.

A veteran international educator with 25 years spent in 10 countries, he was originally drawn to Bath because it hosts the Center for the Study of Education in an International Context. During his time at the university, Snyder undertook coursework in educational management, leadership and administration, educational policy, educational research and engaged in a pilot research enquiry into the impact of social interaction on acceptance and use of virtual learning.

Snyder's thesis was titled, "What's the Big Idea? The role of social interaction as a motivator in online classes."

The study involved track-

ing a group of international students enrolled in online programs around the world to investigate what motivated them to persist in taking online classes. The study was grounded in a meta-theory of human motivation and included an investigation of psychological needs for motivation and wellbeing.



Snyder

The doctor of education degree at the University of Bath is a professional doctorate aimed at those who are eager to make substantial and original contributions to the

development of educational knowledge in a broad range of settings.

The degree meets the need for the highest levels of professional development and training of both educators and those concerned with educational policy and administration. The prime focus is on the interplay between the multidimensional practices of education and scholarship.

The degree is designed to engage current practitioners with knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the philosophical, organizational, political, social, managerial, interpersonal, and technical dimensions of schools and other educational institutions. (PR)

MILESTONES

Dean's list students announced at Hollins

Gedin Auria Avinon Cabrera, a first year at Hollins University, has been named to the dean's list for the 2018 fall semester. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale. Cabrera is the daughter of Steven and Geraldine Cabrera of Saipan. She is a graduate of Kagman High School. (PR)



Hamilton

Brittney Hamilton named to EOU dean's list

Eastern Oregon University has named 526 students to the dean's list for the 2018 fall term. Qualifying students achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded EOU coursework. Among those students was Brittney Hamilton of La Grande, who also

has roots on Saipan. (PR)

UOG's pre-engineering program now a 4-year degree

The two-year pre-engineering program at the University of Guam will evolve into a four-year bachelor of science in civil-engineering program starting in the fall 2019, following approval from the Board of Regents Wednesday.

"The availability of an engineering degree here in Guam will meet growing demand among prospective students as well as a chronic need for engineers in the workforce in Guam and the Western Pacific," said Shahram Khosrowpanah, dean of the School of Engineering.

Enrollment in the program continues to increase, he said, with an almost 20-percent increase over the course of last semester. As of December, the program has 159 declared pre-engineering majors.

"We are excited to now be realizing what was originally the vision of president emeritus Robert Underwood in 2009—a four-year accredited engineering degree program at UOG," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise. "Our School of Engineering is the only engineering program in the Western Pacific, and we are proud that students can now not only start, but finish, a first-class engineering program close to home."

Since the program's launch in 1989, pre-engineering students have completed coursework at UOG for two years with the goal of then being admitted to a four-year engineering school.

UOG has cooperative agreements with the University of Iowa and the Mapua Institute of Technology in the Philippines, which are both accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Graduating from an ABET-accredited school is a requirement to take the professional engineering exam and become licensed.

Now, civil engineering students can earn a four-year degree at UOG, while students pursuing other engineering



An artist's rendition of the proposed University of Guam School of Engineering.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

fields can still avail of the two-year pre-engineering program in preparation for another school. In the future, the goal is to expand UOG's engineering program to offer other fields of engineering needed in Guam and the region, Khosrowpanah said.

UOG's School of Engineering is following requirements for its four-year program to become ABET-accredited and is designing the program's facilities and course materials in accordance with ABET standards.

The school will operate in a new 16,000-square-foot building located next to the Agriculture and Life Sciences building on campus. The

completion expected in February 2020. It will include three classrooms; hydraulics, soil and structure, and environmental engineering laboratories; a computer lab; and faculty office space.

The school has six full-time and one part-time faculty with expertise in each of the basic civil and environmental engineering fields.

The first two students to earn a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Guam are set to graduate in 2020. (PR)



University of Guam School of Engineering student Nilo Espinoza, standing right, looks on while a classmate's bridge structure is tested at the Harold Dean Gillham Bridge Design and Build Competition on March 31, 2018.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



Standing, from left, Joseph D. Rouse, professor of water resources engineering; Julian M. Rosario, adjunct faculty; Fernabel De La Pena, administrative officer; Ujwalkumar D. Patil, assistant professor of geotechnical engineering; and Pyoyoon Hong, associate professor of structural engineering and division chairman. Seated, from left, Maegan Catahay, student and public relations officer for the Society of American Military Engineers Guam Post Student Chapter; Shahram Khosrowpanah, dean; and Nilo Espinoza, student and president for the SAME Guam Post Student Chapter.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Business

Payless ShoeSource to shutter all of its remaining US stores

NEW YORK (AP)—Payless ShoeSource is shuttering all of its 2,100 remaining stores in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, joining a list of iconic names like Toys R Us and Bon-Ton that have closed down in the last year.

The Topeka, Kansas-based chain said Friday it will hold liquidation sales starting Sunday and wind down its e-commerce operations. All of the stores will remain open until at least the end of March and the majority will remain open until May.

The debt-burdened chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April 2017, closing hundreds of stores as part of its reorganization.

At the time, it had over 4,400 stores in more than 30 countries. It remerged from

restructuring four months later with about 3,500 stores and eliminated more than \$435 million in debt.

The company said in an email that the liquidation doesn't affect its franchise operations or its Latin American stores, which remain open for business as usual. It lists 18,000 employees worldwide.

Shoppers are increasingly shifting their buying online or heading to discount stores like T.J. Maxx to grab deals on name-brand shoes. That shift has hurt traditional retailers, even low-price outlets like Payless. Heavy debt loads have also handcuffed retailers, leaving them less flexible to invest in their businesses.

But bankruptcies and store closures will continue through

2019 so there's "no light at the end of the tunnel," according to a report by Core-sight Research.

Before this announcement, there have been 2,187 U.S. store closing announcements this year, with Gymboree and Ascena Retail, the parent of Lane Bryant and other brands, accounting for more than half the total, according to the research firm. This year's total is up 23 percent from the 1,776 announcements a year ago. Year-to-date, retailers have announced 1,411 store openings, offsetting 65 percent of store closures, it said.

Payless was founded in 1956 by two cousins, Louis and Shaol Lee Pozez, to offer self-service stores selling affordable footwear.

Amazon's stormy week will blow over, but the debris may stay

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—It's been a complicated few weeks for Amazon, what with its abrupt pullout from a massive New York City development, extortion claims related to intimate photos taken by its founder Jeff Bezos and increasing antitrust scrutiny in Europe.

For now, these events seem unlikely to pose much threat to Amazon's brand or business. But they're indicative of the mounting challenges the e-commerce giant faces as it grows ever larger and more dominant.

Amazon's turn in the spotlight is a natural consequence of its prominence in retail, entertainment and internet infrastructure, Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said. "As you get bigger and more successful, you have more of a target on your back," he said.

Few analysts believe Thursday's reversal in New York or the previous week's dust-up with the publisher of the National Enquirer will have much impact on consumer enthusiasm for Amazon's broad product selection and services or its fast shipping. Bezos has accused the Enquirer of "extortion and blackmail" for threatening to disclose revealing personal photos unless he ended his private investigation into how the tabloid obtained his private exchanges with his mistress.

Investors don't appear particularly concerned that these issues will distract the hard-driving Bezos, who is also in the midst of a divorce — generally considered one of life's most stressful events. Even

if Bezos were to find his attention otherwise occupied, Evercore ISI analyst Anthony DiClemente notes that the Amazon chief has a trusted senior leadership team in place. "That gives investors comfort," he said.

Amazon shares have more than made up a brief drop after Bezos made his public case against the Enquirer last week.

Public anger at tech companies has been growing for some time, but much of it has been focused on Facebook and other tech companies that collect vast amounts of personal user information for targeting online ads and other purposes.

Facebook's privacy issues have been particularly acute since they involve the company's core business, said Paul Argenti, a Dartmouth College professor of corporate communication. Amazon isn't immune to the tech backlash. But Argenti said the company's popularity with consumers won't likely be affected by recent headlines.

"I'm not going to stop ordering my movies and packages from them, and I think that's the way most people will look at it," he said.

Longer-term issues, however, could present a more serious threat. Amazon's New York investment would have put 25,000 jobs in the Long Island City neighborhood of Queens, at a cost of nearly \$3 billion in tax breaks. Local activists called that a corporate giveaway, one made even less palatable by Amazon's anti-union stance.

That grass-roots rebellion

suggests that people are growing more skeptical of big tech companies, especially when government is cutting them special deals, said Blair Levin, a policy adviser to New Street Research and a former chief of staff to a Federal Communications Commission chairman.

"Time and time again, the public has seen promises made and reality is different," he said. "So they're going to be skeptical of Amazon. And it's across the board, not just Amazon."

Several European nations are also investigating Amazon's alleged anti-competitive activity. On Thursday, Austria's antitrust agency said it is reviewing complaints that the company is favoring its own products and discriminating against other sellers on its e-commerce site. German antitrust authorities and the European Commission are investigating Amazon for similar claims.

In the U.S., politicians are also speaking out against Amazon's practices, said Barry Lynn, executive director of Open Markets, an institution that studies corporate monopolies in the U.S.

Lynn argues that Amazon is a monopoly that should be more heavily regulated by the government. He pointed to comments Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat who is running for president, made last year about Amazon's "anti-competitive" practices.

"The word is out, the discussion is ongoing," Lynn said. "It's not going to go away, it's only going to get louder."

Nation

Aurora attacker took gun to work he shouldn't have owned

AURORA, Ill. (AP)—The man who opened fire and killed five co-workers including the plant manager, human resources manager and an intern working his first day at a suburban Chicago manufacturing warehouse, took a gun he wasn't supposed to have to a job he was about to lose.

Right after learning Friday that he was being fired from his job of 15 years at the Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, Gary Martin pulled out a gun and began shooting, killing the three people in the room with him and two others just outside and wounding a sixth employee, police said Saturday.

Martin shot and wounded five of the first officers to get to the scene, including one who didn't even make it inside the sprawling warehouse in Aurora, Illinois, a city of 200,000 about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Chicago.

After that flurry of shots and with officers from throughout the region streaming in to help, he ran off and hid in the back of the building, where officers found him about an hour later and killed him during an exchange of gunfire, police said.

"He was probably waiting for us to get to him there," Aurora police Lt. Rick Robertson said. "It was just a very short gunfight and it



AP

This undated booking photo provided by the Aurora Illinois Police Department shows Gary Montez Martin, who police say killed multiple people at a suburban Chicago manufacturing warehouse after he was fired, Friday, Feb. 15, 2019.

was over, so he was basically in the back waiting for us and fired upon us and our officers fired."

Like in many of the country's mass shootings, Friday's attack was carried out by a man with a violent criminal history who was armed with a gun he wasn't supposed to have.

Martin, 45, had six ar-

rests over the years in Aurora, for what police Chief Kristen Ziman described as "traffic and domestic battery-related issues" and for violating an order of protection. He also had a 1995 felony conviction for aggravated assault in Mississippi that should have prevented him from buying his gun, Ziman said.

Trump emergency declaration faces fights in the courts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Let the lawsuits begin.

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency along the southern border and predicted his administration would end up defending it all the way to the Supreme Court.

That might have been the only thing Trump said Friday that produced near-universal agreement.

The American Civil Liberties Union announced its intention to sue less than an hour after the White House released the text of Trump's declaration that the "current situation at the southern border presents a border security and humanitarian crisis that threatens core national security interests and constitutes a national emergency."

Nonprofit watchdog group Public Citizen filed suit later,

urging the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to "bar Trump and the U.S. Department of Defense from using the declaration and funds appropriated for other purposes to build a border wall."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and several Democratic state attorneys general already have said they might go to court.

The coming legal fight seems likely to hinge on two main issues: Can the president declare a national emergency to build a border wall in the face of Congress' refusal to give him all the money he wanted and, under the federal law Trump invoked in his declaration, can the Defense Department take money from some congressionally approved military construction projects to pay for wall construction?

The Pentagon has so far not said which projects might be affected.

But after weeks of publicly ruminating whether to act, Trump's signature on the declaration set in motion a quick march to the courthouse.

Trump relied on the National Emergencies Act of 1976, which Congress adopted as a way to put some limits on presidential use of national emergencies. The act requires a president to notify Congress publicly of the national emergency and to report every six months. The law also says the president must renew the emergency every year, simply by notifying Congress. The House and Senate also can revoke a declaration by majority vote, though it would take a two-thirds vote by each house to override an expected presidential veto.

Asia

TO KASHMIR SUICIDE ATTACK

India warns of 'crushing response'

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—India's prime minister warned of a "crushing response" to the suicide bombing of a paramilitary convoy in Indian-controlled Kashmir that killed 41 people and was the deadliest in the divided region's volatile history.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi placed the blame for Thursday's bombing squarely on neighboring Pakistan, which India accuses of supporting rebels in Kashmir.

"Our neighboring country thinks such terror attacks can weaken us, but their plans will not materialize," he said Friday, adding that government forces have been "given total freedom" to deal with the militants.

"Security forces have been given permission to take decisions about the timing, place and nature of their response," he said.

Pakistan's ruling party rejected Modi's allegation, saying India's governing party was blaming Islamabad for political gains in the upcoming national election.

"The Indian allegations against Pakistan over yesterday's incident are part of the election campaign," said Naemul Haq, a senior leader of the Tehreek-e-Insaf party, which came to power in last year's parliamentary election. He said the violence in Kashmir was "the result of the brutalities of Indian occupied



Flames rise from the cremation pyre of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) soldier Mahesh Yadav, who was killed in Thursday bombing in Kashmir, on the outskirts of Tudiher village, some 56 kilometers east of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh state, India, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.

forces in Kashmir."

The attack has ratcheted up already high tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors, who both administer parts of the disputed territory but each claim it entirely.

Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced Friday that New Delhi was withdrawing the most-favored nation trade status given to Pakistan and would take all possible diplomatic steps "to ensure the complete isolation from international community of Pakistan of which incontrovertible evidence is available of having a direct hand in this gruesome terrorist incident."

India's Foreign Ministry also summoned the Pakistani ambassador to protest the attack.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said the country condemns acts of violence anywhere in the world and denied any involvement. "We strongly reject any insinuation by elements in the Indian media and government that seek to link the attack to Pakistan without investigations," it said in a statement.

Rebels, many of whom want Kashmir united with Pakistan, have been fighting Indian control since 1989. But the Muslim-majority region has experienced renewed attacks and repeated public protests in recent years as a new generation of Kashmiri rebels, especially in the southern parts of the region, has challenged New Delhi's rule with a mixture of violence and social media.

Trump says he might extend deadline in US-China talks

BEIJING (AP)—President Donald Trump said that "there's a possibility" he would extend a March 2 deadline in trade talks with China if the two countries are closing in on a deal.

Trump made the remarks after two days of high-level negotiations broke up in Beijing Friday, and the two countries announced plans to resume talks next week in Washington. The world's two biggest economies are locked in a dispute over China's aggressive push to challenge American technological dominance.

The U.S. is scheduled to hike import taxes on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods on March 2. But Trump told reporters that he might extend the deadline "if I see that we're close to a deal or the deal is going in the right direction." He had made similar comments on Tuesday.

Earlier Friday, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told Chinese President Xi Jinping negotiators "made headway" in talks this week

in Beijing.

Economists said this week's two days of talks were too brief to resolve the sprawling dispute that extends to cyber-spying and China's trade surplus. They said Beijing is trying to persuade Trump enough progress is being made to postpone the penalties.

"I hope you will continue to work hard to promote a mutually beneficial and win-win agreement," Chinese President Xi Jinping told Lighthizer in a meeting after the negotiations ended, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The decision to hold more talks suggested they were making progress. But there was no indication of movement on the thorniest dispute: U.S. pressure on Beijing to scale back plans for government-led creation of Chinese global leaders in robotics and other technologies.

"We feel we have made headway on very, very important and difficult issues," Lighthizer told Xi. "We have additional work we have to do

but we are hopeful."

Xi said Beijing and Washington "share broad mutual interests" in promoting global economic prosperity and stability.

"We shoulder important responsibilities," the Chinese leader said.

Washington, Europe, Japan and other governments say Beijing's industry plans violate its market-opening obligations. Some American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Trump raised tariffs in July over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. He imposed 25 percent penalties on \$50 billion of goods from China and 10 percent on \$200 billion.

China retaliated by raising duties on American soybeans and other imports and ordering its companies to find other suppliers. Imports of American goods plunged 41.2 percent in January compared with a year earlier, according to customs data.

World

Mexico says makeshift migrant shelter near border to close soon

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico (AP)—An improvised shelter where hundreds of Central American migrants have been confined in the border city of Piedras Negras, across from Eagle Pass, Texas, will close next week, authorities said Saturday.

Coahuila State Public Safety Secretary Jose Luis Pliego said the shelter in an abandoned factory has served its purpose, which was to provide attention to the migrants and process their migratory status.

It is expected to close Wednesday, and authorities have begun taking some migrants to neighboring states such as Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas to be incorporated into the workforce while others may seek other options to try to cross into the United States.

Pliego said about 1,500 now have papers that let them move freely in Mexico. Some 400 have already been taken to other states, and about 70 were deported to their home countries for purportedly disturbing the peace.

"Given the conditions we have right now, the advances in registrations, the advances in providing documents" and the fact that many who were ill when they arrived have been or are being treated, Pliego said, "the purpose of the shelter has practically concluded."

Soldiers in camouflage and body armor formed



Six-year-old Daniela Fernanda Portillo Burgos sits on the shoulders of her mother, Iris Jamilet, 39, as they look out through the fence of a migrant shelter in Piedras Negras, Mexico, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

a perimeter outside the facility on Saturday, resting casually on riot shields, as migrants milled about on the other side of the yellow chain-link fence. A helicopter buzzed overhead, some boarded buses to be transported elsewhere.

On Wednesday police and migrants scuffled briefly at the building, which was ringed by officers and soldiers, because they were not being allowed outside. Video of the images showed some migrants tearing down a temporary awning and trying to wrestle metal barricades from police.

Some migrants still at the shelter said they were not being allowed to come and go despite holding the permits, and they hope to leave as soon as possible for fear of possible deportation.

"I don't feel safe here," said Donald, a Honduran migrant

who declined to give his last name for fear of possible reprisals in Mexico or back home. He added that officials had torn up the credentials of some people and that was the cause of the Wednesday's disturbance.

A field officer with the Texas-based refugee advocacy group Raices has spoken of "prison"-like conditions inside.

The migrants have wanted to appear at the U.S. border to apply for asylum, but only about a dozen per day have been allowed to do so.

Pliego said he was aware of another possible migrant caravan from Honduras, but it was not clear where it would head once in Mexico.

Some previous caravans have made for the border city of Tijuana, where there is a long waiting list for asylum seekers to be allowed to present their case.

US military planes land near Venezuela border with aid

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP)—The U.S. military airlifted tons of humanitarian aid to a Colombian town on the Venezuelan border Saturday as part of an effort meant to undermine socialist President Nicolas Maduro and back his rival for the leadership of the South American nation.

Three scheduled Air Force C-17 cargo planes that took off from Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida had landed in Cucuta. That border city, swollen by a flood of migrants from Venezuela, is a collection point for aid that's supposed to be distributed by supporters of Juan Guaido, the congressional leader who is recognized by the U.S. and many other nations as Venezuela's legitimate president. He has called for the aid.

"This wasn't the first, and it won't be the last," said USAID

Administrator Mark Green, standing on the tarmac in Cucuta at a ceremony to receive the aid. "More is on the way."

Commercial planes had been used for earlier shipments of aid, which is aimed at dramatizing the economic crisis — including hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicine — gripping Venezuela. Critics say last year's re-election was fraudulent, making Maduro's second term illegal.

"We are saving lives with these airplanes," said Lestor Toledo, an exiled politician who is coordinating the international aid effort for Guaido.

Maduro has been using the military, which remains loyal, to help him block the aid from entering Venezuela, describing it as "crumbs" from a U.S. government whose restrictions have stripped

his administration of control over many of its most valuable assets.

"They hang us, steal our money and then say 'here, grab these crumbs' and make a global show out of it," Maduro told The Associated Press on Thursday. "With dignity we say 'No to the global show.' Whoever wants to help Venezuela is welcome, but we have enough capacity to pay for everything that we need."

His vice president has alleged, without evidence, that the aid packages are contaminated. Green on Saturday called the allegations "absurd."

Saturday's 180-ton shipment includes high-energy food products or hygiene kids of soap, toothpaste and other goods for more than 25,000 people.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

By LUCY LUGINBILL
TRI-CITY HERALD

Look into life's rearview mirror can be a fun trip, reminiscing about experiences that have marked the journey. But if you intend to stroll down memory lane with Hazel Gallagher of Kennewick, Wash., you'd better bring your running shoes.

"Hazel can outwork most people in the gym at 97 years old," said Kennewick Hansen Park Fitness co-manager Chuck Clapper, shaking his head in admiration at the sprightly senior.

Monday through Friday, the silver-haired lady shows up mid-morning with her 86-year-old husband, Bill, to vigorously walk the treadmill and work the weight machines.

"I had the lift set at 30 pounds, but I changed it to 40," Hazel remarked as she reset the machine for her repetitions. "It was too easy."

Joann Monroe, who frequents the same gym, said, "I see her come



A centsEUroel had the lift set at 30 pounds, but I changed it to 40, A centsEURA said 97-year old Hazel Gallacher as she reset the machine for her repetitions at Kennewick, Wash., Hansen Park Fitness. A centsEUroelt was too easy.

Light Notes: 97-year old woman outruns old age

in each day and Hazel's energy is amazing."

If this perky nonagenarian has found the fountain of youth, there are plenty of people who want to know her secret.

"Pick the right parents," Bill quipped, while Hazel echoed the importance of good genes. Her dad lived to 108 and her mother 92.

But there are a couple of markers that stand out in Hazel's memory—experiences that have made a difference in who she is today—and who she'll be tomorrow.

Born at her grandmother's home in a 1920 February winter, her earliest memories are of a hard-working family who had homesteaded in Goshen County, Wyo.

"I was the third baby of eight—four boys and four girls," Hazel said, recalling the single room cabin her dad first built before moving into her grandmother's two-story home on land she homesteaded too. "Us kids had to work in the potato fields—keep the weeds out—milk the cows and feed the chickens from the time they were baby chicks."

Those chores before and after school were a daily routine, including a walk with her siblings to and from the one-room schoolhouse down the road apiece. Farm kids only skipped school when there was extra work to do.

"You stayed out of school in the fall to help pick potatoes," Hazel said about the 90 acres her family farmed. "My dad had to hire help, but my sister, Ethel, and I would try to beat everybody filling the bags."

Fieldwork stopped to take a breath Sunday, but daily chores were seven days a week. Nevertheless, Hazel recalls how their country life far from the nearest town didn't mean they'd miss church services.

"The Baptist minister would come and use the schoolhouse on Sundays," Hazel said, thinking back to a time when distant neighbors would gather to hear the gospel—and maybe a little gossip.

That upbringing—working close to the earth and a belief in the creator—has brought her to this side of 98 with still a twinkle in her blue eyes. At times, though, there have been tears.

"Bill was my neighbor and we'd stayed friends after my husband, Thomas Brock, died in 2003, and then his wife passed away in 2007," Hazel said, remembering the loss they both had suffered. "One day he asked me, 'How old are you?' and I told him I was too old for him," she said with a chuckle about the man almost 12 years her junior whom she wed in 2008.

"She'll outlive me," Bill said, laughing, a guy who admits to being impressed with his wife's get-up-and-go.

Hazel isn't one to take a nap or pine for what couldn't be. When she graduated from Lusk High School in a class of 38 students, some went on to college, but not Hazel.

"I worked in the fields and there was no money to go on to school," Hazel said matter-of-factly, even though she had wanted more education.

During her career years, she never had a desk job. Instead, Hazel was constantly on the move as a meat wrapper, besides raising three children. When she retired

from Waremart Foods (now WinCo Foods), she wasn't about to sit still.

"I started walking and I'd walk about 3 miles," Hazel said, recalling the early mornings in the wide-open spaces that once surrounded her home. "I get up later now and work the crossword puzzles and word games in the newspaper first."

Not an idle moment at an age when most people think they're going downhill.

"We climb Badger Mountain in the summers," Hazel said enthusiastically about the trails to the top. "People see me and they can't believe I'm that old."

So what is her secret to a long good life?

"I think it's staying active and having faith," Hazel said thoughtfully.

And maybe a good pair of running shoes.

Lucy Luginbill is a career television producer-host and the *Spiritual Life* editor for the *Tri-City Herald*. In her column, she reflects on the meaning of her name, "Light Bringer." If you have a story idea for *Light Notes*, contact her at lluginbill@tricityherald.com.



Three tips to ditch junk food for a healthier diet

The steady stream of holiday cookies and treats may have slowed, but for millions of Americans, the appetite for high-fat, sodium-laden sweets continues. Making the switch from highly processed junk food to healthier whole foods can be challenging. Kate Zeratsky, a Mayo Clinic registered dietitian nutritionist, says making changes in your eating habits can help.

French fries, pizza, potato chips and sweets with their added salt, fat and sugar are tasty. Zeratsky says these highly processed foods often are stripped of their nutritional value even though they taste so good to many of us.

"As Americans, we like taste and convenience, and those foods generally fit that bill."

And we are creatures of habit. The good news is habits can be broken.

"Changing a habit or a behavior is a challenge, and, so, having a plan as you go about that change probably will be helpful," says Zeratsky.

She says one option is removing the temptation.

"Instead of having those foods on your kitchen counter, maybe putting out a bowl of fruit."

Option two: Try gradually cutting back and pairing it with a new food. It might be pairing that ice cream with some cut-up fruit.

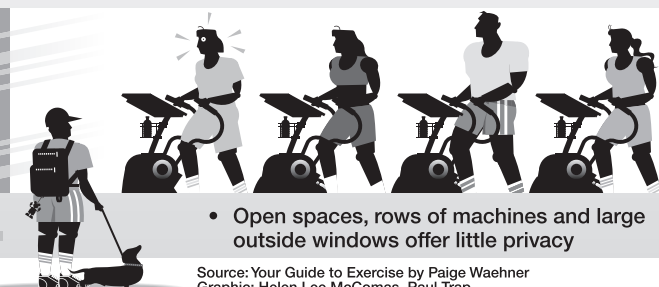
And option three: Replace that sweet candy or cookie with a piece of fresh fruit.

"Allow yourself to test and experiment. It gives you freedom and some permission to find out what works without feeling like it's such a tough task," says Zeratsky. (Mayo Clinic News Network)

Personal Trainer

Gym intimidation

Commercial health clubs and gyms can be intimidating to exercise novices; why they can seem that way and where to find alternatives:



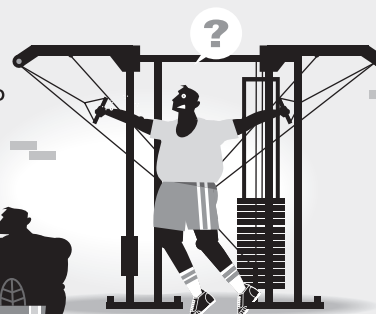
- Open spaces, rows of machines and large outside windows offer little privacy

Source: Your Guide to Exercise by Paige Waehner
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

- Aggressive salespeople
- Beautiful, toned people who make novices feel hopeless
- Hardcore exercisers with little patience for beginners



- Confusing machines with computer panels and no directions



Places that may feel more comfortable

- YMCAs, YWCAs and Jewish community centers
- Hospital-based fitness centers
- Local recreation centers
- Trainers with private studios
- Women-only clubs



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Life & Style

10 days before show time, a full-on revolt over the Oscars

By **JAKE COYLE** and **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITERS

Would anyone—anyone at all—like to thank the academy?

This is normally the time of year when Oscar hopefuls are readying acceptance speeches that almost always begin with a few words of gratitude for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. But that sentiment has been hard to come by in the torturous and

troubled lead-up to the 91st Academy Awards.

After a litany of public-relations disasters, backtracks and missteps, the latest dust-up surrounds the film academy's plans to remove four categories from the live portion of Feb. 24's broadcast, including cinematography and editing, arguably the two most foundational components of moviemaking. The academy, desperate to reverse sliding

ratings, says a shortened show must go on.

On Wednesday evening, dozens of Hollywood heavyweights—including Martin Scorsese, Spike Lee, Brad Pitt, cinematographer Roger Deakins and director Damien Chazelle—issued an open-letter to the academy's leadership blasting the decision to not air the four awards, which also include live-action short and hairstyling and makeup, live

on the ABC telecast.

"Relegating these essential cinematic crafts to lesser status in this 91st Academy Awards ceremony is nothing less than an insult to those of us who have devoted our lives and passions to our chosen profession," the group wrote. "When the recognition of those responsible for the creation of outstanding cinema is being diminished by the very institution whose purpose it is to protect it, then we are no longer upholding the spirit of the Academy's promise to celebrate film as a collaborative art form."

The academy responded with a letter of its own, blaming "inaccurate reporting and

social media posts" for "a chain of misinformation." Signed by academy president John Bailey, a cinematographer, and other officers from the academy's board of governors, the letter sought to assure members that the four winning speeches will be included in the broadcast (just not live, or with a walk to the stage) and that in future years, four to six different categories will be similarly truncated.

After years of #OscarSoWhite backlash, one infamous envelope mix-up and the reckoning that followed the expulsion of Harvey Weinstein from the academy, this year's Academy Awards drama has been self-inflicted. In response

to last year's all-time low of 26.5 million viewers, the Oscars—the grandest and most glamorous award show ever created—are shrinking. And nobody likes it.

"People in general have a hard time with change. Change is sometimes hard to swallow. And I think the way that the news came out, it came out in the wrong way," says Mary Zophres, one of the 54 members of the board of governors and a costume designer nominated this year for "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs," at an event celebrating nominees hosted by industry site The Wrap. "But there is a need to make sure that the ratings are competitive."

Chicago police: Jussie Smollett assault case has 'shifted'

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago police said Saturday the investigation into the attack reported by Jussie Smollett has "shifted" due to information received from two brothers arrested in the case then released, and police want to interview the "Empire" actor again.

Chicago police had released the two Nigerian brothers without charges late Friday

and said they were no longer suspects in the reported attack.

"We can confirm that the information received from the individuals questioned by police earlier in the Empire case has in fact shifted the trajectory of the investigation," Chicago



Smollett

police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in an emailed statement Saturday. "We've reached out to the Empire cast member's attorney to request a follow-up interview."

Guglielmi did not elaborate on what he meant by a shift in the case.

Scrutiny, family woes pile pressure on pregnant Meghan

LONDON (AP)—When Meghan Markle became engaged to Prince Harry, the American TV star seemed to charm everyone she met. She and Harry toured Britain to adoring



Markle

crowds, and she pledged to hit the ground running once she officially joined the royal circle.

Britain's rambunctious, royal-obsessed press praised her as something different, a fresh take on an old "firm" in need of a bit of dazzle.

Nine months after her wedding extravaganza and now formally known as the Duchess of Sussex, the 37-year-old is pregnant—and finding that life in the royal fishbowl carries not just glamour and great charitable opportunities but liabilities as well.

Meghan is engaged in a painful, public rift with her father—played out in the nation's tabloids, of course—and dealing with speculation that

she is feuding with Prince William's wife, Kate.

Her half-sister Samantha has been sniping at her in public, and the once-fawning press has criticized for everything from being hard on her household staff to spending too much time cradling her "baby bump."

"I should think she's finding it pretty difficult," said Ingrid Seward, editor-in-chief of Majesty magazine. "It's such a minefield, being a member of the royal family. Perhaps she should have eased herself into it a little more."



FRESCO UNCOVERED

This undated photo provided Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019, by the Parco Archeologico di Pompei (Archaeological Park of Pompei) shows the atrium of a house with a fresco portraying the mythological hunter Narcissus, right, in Pompeii, near Naples, Italy. Archaeologists have discovered a fresco in an ancient Pompeii residence that portrays the mythological hunter Narcissus, who fell in love with his own reflection, in a house where a fresco was found late last year depicting a sensual scene between the Roman god Jupiter disguised as a swan and Leda, a queen of Sparta from Greek mythology.

AP

New mother can't let go of story of baby's death

DEAR ABBY: I recently had a baby, and I have been diagnosed as having postpartum depression. I have tried all of the prescribed medications but took myself off them because of the side effects.

The issue I'm having is I read a news story about a tiny baby who was scalded to death years ago by his mother. I think about that precious baby all day long. I cry, I scream and I have anxiety about hot water.

I started following the case closely (it's in another state) and have been spending my hard-earned vacation money ordering depositions and other documents from the case. I want some kind of closure on this, but I can't seem to let this poor baby go. My money is limited, which is why I can't/don't see a therapist. Any advice?

OVERWHELMED IN GEORGIA

DEAR OVERWHELMED: Have you informed the doctor who prescribed those medications that you stopped taking them, and why? If you haven't, you should.

It is important that you talk with a mental health professional about your obsession over the death of that baby and how it is affecting your life. Because money is limited, contact your county department of mental health and ask what services are available on a sliding financial scale.

Please don't wait to reach out. Your own baby needs love and care, and that should be your focus.

DEAR ABBY: I recently started a band with some close friends. At the beginning, everything was going great because we all have similar tastes in music. However, recently the lead singer has gotten more and more attention-seeking.

It started out small where he would make jokes on stage and try and get a laugh out of people. But now he's getting really outlandish, wearing crazy outfits and overall just acting ridiculous. How can I help him get back to just caring about the music and leaving the antics behind?

EAST COAST MUSICIAN

DEAR MUSICIAN: You have my sympathy. Tom Hanks wrote and directed a movie about this subject in 1996. It is called "That Thing You Do!" If you can locate it, I am sure you will find it interesting.

As destructive as the hardships of being constantly on the road have been for performers in the music and entertainment business, EGO can be equally so. Your bandmate may be trying his best to upstage the rest of you or may think a gimmick could excite your audience. Try talking to him about it, but accept that you may have to replace him. If that's the case, be sure the person you hire has the same vision for the band that you do, so this won't happen again.

DEAR ABBY: What is the best way to approach a co-worker regarding body odor? A number of people in my office have

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



noticed it, and it's creating a problem when someone has to sit near him during a meeting. We don't want to cause hurt feelings, but we really need him to be aware.

KEEPING OUR DISTANCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR KEEPING: This could be a medical problem rather than poor hygiene. Because it's a delicate subject, one that could be embarrassing for everyone concerned, this should be discussed with HR, the person's supervisor or the boss—depending upon the size of the company.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



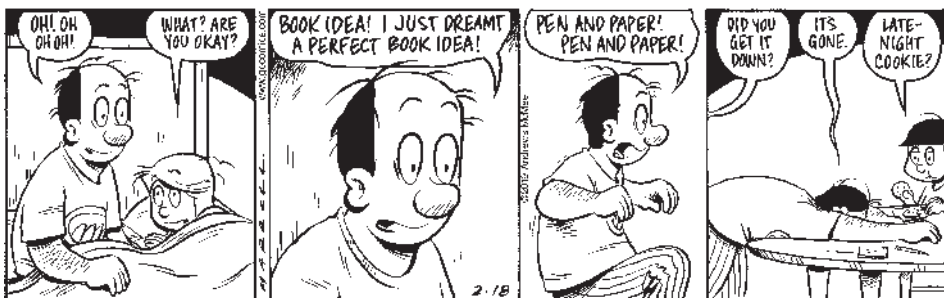
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Request
4 Lawyers' org.
7 Jab
11 Grub
13 Sinbad's bird
14 Way out
15 Spanish greeting
16 Some-what (Suff.)
17 Memo-randum
18 You'll get a rise out of it
20 Iowa crop
22 Owned
24 Begin-nings
28 Pudding variety
32 Lebanon's neighbor
33 Press
34 Rage
36 Joyful tune
37 Plaintive poem
39 Sees the world
41 Country singer West

DOWN

43 "Caught ya!"
44 Frank
46 Gold mold
50 Writer
53 Flushed
55 Fascinated by
56 Byron or Tennyson
57 Nest-egg acronym
58 Car
59 Oil cartel
60 Many millennia
61 Drunkard

1 Needing liniment
2 Oxford, for one

3 Caffeine source
4 "Entourage" character
5 Pear type
6 Sneeze sound
7 The White House's "Avenue"
8 Kitchen gadget brand
9 Tool set
10 Tours season
12 U.S. capital on the Potomac
19 Eastern "way"

21 ER workers
23 601, to Nero
25 Canal of song
26 Cash drawer
27 Pre-college exams
28 Even
29 Woody's son
30 Bard
31 Illustrations
35 Historic time
38 Shriek bark
40 Sushi fish
42 Haunting
45 Sleuth Wolfe
47 Wilde-beests
48 "Beetle Bailey" dog
49 Horn sound
50 "The Wedding Planner" actress, to fans
51 "Alley—"
52 Exist
54 Dapper fellow

Solution time: 26 mins.

G	L	E	A	M	N	O	I	A	M	S
M	A	G	N	A	O	B	I	R	A	W
A	M	O	N	G	B	O	L	O	G	N
J	A	R	A	B	E	R	O	S	S	V
A	S	I	A	A	R	O	M	A		
N	A	P	L	E	S	V	E	N	I	C
S	U	E	D	E	S	T	O	W		
M	O	L	A	R	N	A	E	Y	E	
O	P	E	C	S	I	S	T	E	R	
T	R	I	E	S	T	E	O	P	A	L
H	A	G	P	A	S	L	E	T	I	T
S	T	A	N	T	L	E	E	D	S	

Last Friday's Answer 02-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Molly Ringwald, 51; Matt Dillon, 55; John Travolta, 65; Yoko Ono, 86.

Happy Birthday: Make changes for the right reason. Consider what will benefit you the most. Look for opportunities that will encourage you to update and use your skills to fit a trend or job market. Spice up your resume and find a way to branch out. Expand your circle of friends, your knowledge and your experience. Your numbers are 4, 9, 22, 29, 30, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take one step at a time. If you act on an assumption, you will have regrets. Getting along and seeing the positive in whatever situation you face will be liberating. Accept the inevitable, and work with what you've got. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Lay down some ground rules, and pick up the pace. Make a unique contribution to change someone's life. Love, romance and personal improvements will bring you joy and set you on a path that will add to your security. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't trust what someone tells you; believe in yourself, what you know to be factual and what you are capable of doing. It's OK to think big, but when it comes to putting your plans in motion, practicality should be enforced. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your imagination, surprise someone you love and focus on what's important to you. Partnerships deserve more attention, and dis-

cussing your intentions and plans will bring you closer to the person you want to spend time with most. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need a boost. It's time to get moving and to get things done. Change begins when you've mastered your skills and you have the confidence to use them in your own special way. Don't ponder over what to do next. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a critical look at yourself, your life and your prospects. Do something that will turn your dream into a reality. Look inward and strive for personal growth and obtaining the knowledge required to be successful. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look beyond your situation and consider how best to maintain balance and peace in your life and still be able to achieve your goals. Reflect on what's happened in the past, and avoid making the same mistakes. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use your imagination and originality. How you separate what you have to offer from others will invite opportunities with people who are open to doing things differently. Don't let emotions alter the choices you make. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Concentrate on personal goals and changes that will give you the edge in a competitive situation. Understanding what others want and are willing to do will help you direct your energy wisely. Recognize who is truthful. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's OK to show emotions and to tell someone how you feel. Speak up; you will be able to bring about a change that will make your life better. Emotional anger will not help you find a solution. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep busy and accomplish as much as possible. The less time you waste explaining yourself and the more time spent being productive, the better. Pull in the people you know can do a good job without supervision. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stand up and help those less fortunate. Being fair and nonjudgmental will lead to greater recognition and opportunities. A personal change will prepare you for an offer that is too good to turn down. Networking will pay off. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, adaptable and friendly. You are ambitious and studious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1	5	9	4		2	7		
6		7		1	9		8	
	3		6	8				
3					1			
2			7			8		
	9					6		
		4	2		6			
2	1	5		6		9		
7	6		8	9	5	4		

Difficulty Level ★

2/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	5	2	7	9	3	8	1	4
3	4	7	8	1	5	2	9	6
1	8	9	2	4	6	7	3	5
8	9	4	5	2	1	3	6	7
2	3	1	4	6	7	5	8	9
5	7	6	3	8	9	4	2	1
7	1	8	9	5	2	6	4	3
9	2	3	6	7	4	1	5	8
4	6	5	1	3	8	9	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BAKERS BAKE!

Solution: 7 letters

P T C O O K I E C U T T E R B
A A O Q U A R T S E I K O O C
S E R S H E E T P A N S W L U
T H N C M I X E R U O L F L P
R Y S I H S N O O P S E S I C
I R T T I M N E V O P Z G N A
E D A G T S E I P M A T N G K
S R R C A N N E D T E I P E
R C I P E L T T E U R R I S
E S H K S I H W A P L P U N T
G A C O O O C S C M A S S S A
G N O O D U P I A O U P A U B
S P U C N O N E N G L E E D L
P I N T O E R C A G Y O M R E
E B U N S C S R E K C A R C L

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2/18

Bowls, Buns, Canned, Cocoa, Color, Cookie Cutter, Cookies, Cooking, Cornstarch, Crackers, Cream, Cupcakes, Cups, Dry Heat, Eggs, Flour, Icing, Measuring, Method, Mixer, Nuts, Oil, Ounce, Oven Mitt, Parchment Paper, Pastries, Pies, Pint, Pretzels, Quart, Recipe, Rolling Pin, Scones, Sheet Pan, Spatula, Spoons, Sugar, Table, Teaspoon, Timer, Whisk, Yeast

Last Friday's Answer: Cashmere

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Accountant wanted! Micronesian Legal is hiring our chief financial officer, in our office on Saipan. Annual salary \$45,000 to \$55,000. Contact lee@mlsncet.org.

B & L CORPORATION

(1) Machinist
At least 3 years experience in machining job. Can Modify parts metal and Non Metal. Can operate all kinds of industrial machines.

Interested Applicant please contact 235-2567

L&F, INC.
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

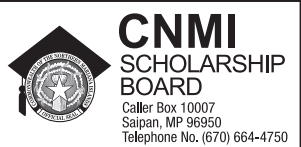
Accountant - \$7.50
Bachelor's degree in Accounting Knowledge in Peach Tree software 4-5 years of experience required

(2) Maintenance Repairer - \$7.25
2 yrs. experience in Rod/Reel & Gun repair

Administrative Assistant - \$7.25
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration With experience in Bookkeeping 3 years of experience required

Applicants must be able to work flexible hrs. and must have a valid CNMI driver's license

Please email resume to info@fishingtackleisaipan.com no later than March 04, 2019



BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its 2nd Regular Board Meeting on Friday, February 22, 2019 at 9:00am - 12:00pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

- AGENDA**
- I. Meeting Call to Order
 - II. Determination of Quorum
 - III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 - V. Election of Officers (Vacancies)
 - VI. Committee Appointment (Vacancies)
 - VII. Old Business
 - A. MR. WORKS
 - VIII. New Business
 - A. Nursing School Scholarship
 - B. FY 20 Budget
 - C. Professional Development Day
 - IX. Board of Directors Committee Updates
 - X. CSO Administrators Committee Updates
 - XI. Announcement and next meeting
 - XII. Adjournment
- /s/ Reyna M. Saures,
Interim Vice Chairwoman

Gemkell Saipan Corporation

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor (1)
This individual will be in charge of the overall management of the boutique and will be responsible for attaining the objectives established for the boutique, effectiveness of the operation, and the competitive position of the company's brand while ensuring a flawless representation of the company at all times. Another important responsibility is the training and development of the Store's sales team.

Requires: High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Sales Associate, full-time (6)
Responsible for managing the customer's experience by identifying customer's needs and recommending or promoting the appropriate merchandise. Sales Associates also process all modes of payment using the POS System and help maintain and enhance the overall appearance of the boutique by maintaining the cleanliness of the store (showcases and displays).

Requires: High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales and must be able to lift at least 15-pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may obtain employment application forms from the Front Office of Century Tours, Inc., located on the ground floor of the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road in Susupe Village, Saipan. Offices are open Sunday-Saturday from 9 AM-6 PM. Applications or resumes may also be submitted via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com or posted online under the JVAs on the CNMI Department of Labor Website. To be considered, resumes or application documents must be submitted not later than **6:00PM on Monday, February 19, 2019**. Drug testing is required prior to employment and background checks will be required prior to employment.



is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) Accountant
Bachelor's degree in Accounting with three (3) years of accounting experience is required. Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, excellent verbal and written communication skills, analytical and problem-solving abilities, and the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment. Experience working in a medical field setting is preferred.

(1) Midwife (part-time)
College graduate completion of accredited Midwifery training program approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with five (5) years of work experience in Midwifery. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Midwife in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment.

(2) Radiology Technician
College degree in Radiology from a school approved by the Health Care Professions Licensing Board, with two (2) years of relevant work experience as a Radiology Technician. Must have the ability to take, review, evaluate and operate X-Ray, Ultrasound, Mammogram and Echocardiogram equipment. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Radiology Technician in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment.

(4) Registered Nurse (RN) – 2 Part time / 2 Full Time
College graduate degree in Nursing from a school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with two (2) years of work experience as a nurse or working in a similar capacity in a health care or medical setting. Must pass US NCLEX-RN and is licensed as an RN by CBNE. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment. Ability to speak and translate in the Chinese language is preferred.

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Kaepernick, Reid settle collusion grievances with NFL



NEW YORK

(AP)—With a public hearing looming and the threat of owners and league officials facing depositions, the NFL settled collusion cases brought by Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid.

The league, about to celebrate its 100th season, faced criticism from all sides thanks to the protest movement started by Kaepernick. Many Kaepernick supporters wanted to see him back on the field, while other fans said they wouldn't watch if the league allowed players to protest during the national anthem.

The league and Kaepernick's lawyer sent out statements Friday saying that "the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances" and that a confidentiality agreement would prevent either side from commenting further.

It remains unclear if the NFL admitted wrongdoing or how much money Reid, Kaepernick or others may have received. Considering the lost salary both players claimed and legal costs, the settlement could have climbed into the tens of millions of dollars.

"For the past several months, counsel for Mr. Kaepernick and Mr. Reid have engaged in an ongoing dialogue with representatives of the NFL," the league statement said. "As a result of those discussions, the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances. The resolution of this matter is subject to a confidentiality agreement so there will be no further comment by any party."

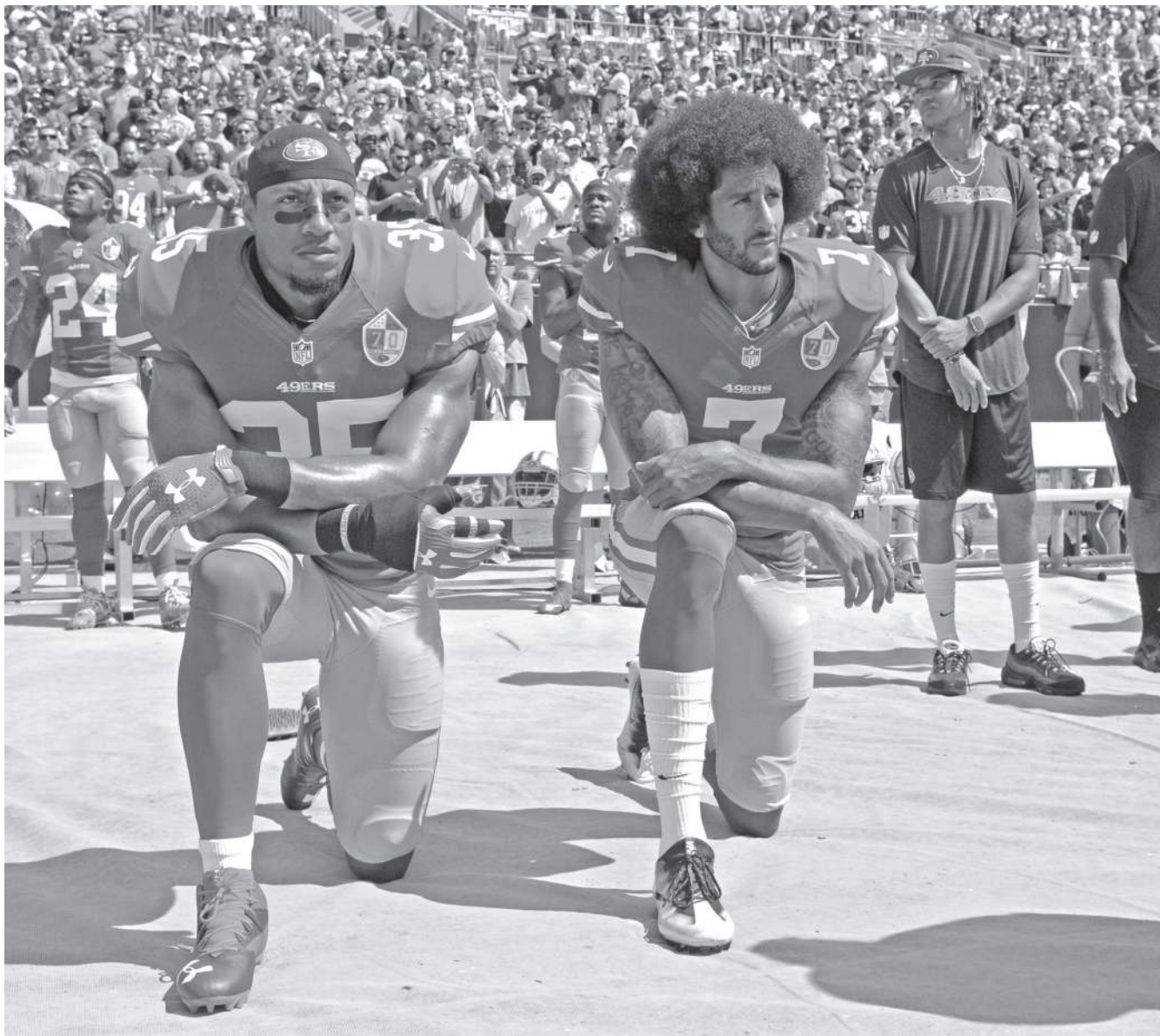
Kaepernick's lawyer Mark Geragos tweeted a similar statement.

The protests slowed down this season, as the NFL made contributions to organizations chosen by players and promised more attention to social justice issues. But the controversy reignited every time there was a development in the case.

A hearing was scheduled for later this month.

Kaepernick and Reid filed collusion grievances against the league, saying they were blacklisted because of protests during the national anthem at games. Kaepernick has not played in the league since 2016, while Reid missed three games last season before signing with Carolina. Kaepernick contended the owners violated their collective bargaining agreement with players by conspiring to keep him off teams.

While the players seemed intent on pursuing the cases, the league might not have been



In this Sept. 18, 2016, file photo, San Francisco 49ers' Colin Kaepernick (7) and Eric Reid (35) kneel during the national anthem before an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers, in Charlotte, N.C. Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid have reached settlements on their collusion lawsuits against the NFL, the league said Friday, Feb. 19, 2019.

eager for those deposed—including Commissioner Roger Goodell and several owners and league executives—to appear. Still, for the players to prove collusion is a mighty challenge because, according to the 2011 labor agreement between the union and league, a "club, its employees or agents" must have "entered into an agreement" to limit contract offers.

Kaepernick filed his grievance in August 2017. Arbitrator Stephen B. Burbank sent it to trial, denying the league's request to throw out the former 49ers quarterback's claims. Burbank's decision meant there was enough evidence of collusion to keep the grievances going.

A wave of protests by NFL players began in 2016 after Kaepernick knelt during the national anthem to call attention to police brutality and racial inequality. The protests grew into one of the most polarizing issues in sports, with President Donald Trump loudly urging the league to suspend or fire players who demonstrate during "The Star-Spangled Banner."

While he has been away from the playing field, Kaepernick has become an advocate for battling social and racial injustice. On Thursday, a person with knowledge of the conversations told the AP that Kaepernick turned down a chance to join the fledgling Alliance of American Football, seeking \$20 million or more from the upstart league that pays its players \$225,000 over three seasons.

Safety Reid recently resigned with the Panthers for three years and more than \$22 million. He noted then that he got "fair market value" after making just \$1.69 million last season from the Panthers.

"If anything, it proves my point from last year," Reid said. "I didn't sign until the (fourth) week and did for almost the league minimum. And this year I signed a more substantial contract. And nothing has changed. I'm still the same player."

Officials with the players union said Friday afternoon that they had just learned of the settlement and had no details.

Tannehill, Keenum among players in jeopardy

While others celebrate Valentine's Day, veteran NFL players are often left to spend February fearing a breakup.

Ahead of the new league year and free agency—they begin simultaneously on March 13—teams kick off the weeks after the Super Bowl by clearing cap space. That frequently means saying farewell to notable players whose performances no longer justify their contracts.

These are some of the veterans who could be sent packing:

QB Ryan Tannehill, Dolphins: Miami looks poised to begin a rebuild under first-year coach Brian Flores and GM Chris Grier, and one of the biggest changes could come under center. Tannehill, 30, has never been more than adequate as a starter and seems like an unlikely steward for a new era.

QB Blake Bortles, Jaguars: Closing the book on one of the biggest mistakes in recent franchise history will be costly. Cutting Bortles entails taking a \$16.5 million hit in dead cap space. But the main question for Jacksonville, currently over the cap, may be whether to spread that figure out by designating him as a post-June 1 release or to deal with it all at once—calculus which could be further affected by the team's ability to

acquire another quarterback.

QB Case Keenum, Broncos: Joe Flacco's arrival should push Keenum out the door just one year after the veteran signed to be Denver's starter. Finding a trade partner would be preferable for the Broncos. An outright release would mean carrying \$10 million in dead money. But with only a few teams positioned to view Keenum as a viable starting option, engineering a deal could be difficult.

WR DeSean Jackson, Buccaneers: Bruce Arians might be eager to return Jackson, who led the NFL with 18.9 yards per reception in 2018, as a boost to his downfield passing attack. But the speedy receiver's non-guaranteed \$10 million salary might prove prohibitive, especially after a season in which he struggled to establish a consistent connection with QB Jameis Winston and requested a trade, per reports. His pre-Super Bowl posturing for joining the Rams was a telling show of his mindset.

WR Michael Crabtree, Ravens: The 31-year-old never had more than three catches or 40 yards in any game Lamar Jackson started last season. Baltimore needs to give its second-year quarterback more targets who can create their own separation,

and freeing up \$4.67 million by parting with Crabtree seems like the sensible move.

TE Dwayne Allen, Patriots: Regardless of whether Rob Gronkowski decides to return, Allen doesn't figure to have a meaningful place in the Patriots' plans at tight end. After he took a pay cut in 2018 and caught just three passes on the season, another reduction might be needed — if he's offered the opportunity to return at all.

DE Vic Beasley, Falcons: Since tallying a league-best 15½ sacks in 2016, the former No. 8 overall pick has seldom been able to generate pressure, posting just 13 quarterback hits in the last two seasons. Atlanta has already moved on from several veterans in DE Brooks Reed, CB Robert Alford and K Matt Bryant, and releasing Beasley would clear off the entirety of his \$12.8 million fifth-year option — while potentially making it easier to retain impending free agent DT Grady Jarrett.

DE Robert Quinn, Dolphins: Despite posting four sacks in his last five games, he never justified the hefty contract Miami took on via trade with the Rams last year. The Dolphins can save \$12.9 million by sending Quinn off. Fellow DE Andre Branch

could be another underachiever on the outs.

DE Everson Griffen, Vikings: Playing in 11 games while dealing with mental health issues, Griffen recorded just 5½ sacks, his lowest total since 2013. Minnesota might be tempted to clear \$10.2 million in cap space, especially given the rise of Danielle Hunter last season.

DT Gerald McCoy, Buccaneers: GM Jason Licht addressed the status of his six-time Pro Bowler by saying the team has "a lot of tough decisions to make." Despite a switch to a 3-4 configuration under new DC Todd Bowles, Tampa Bay will still use a one-gap scheme that can make use of McCoy's penetrating ability. But his \$13 million salary is not guaranteed, and the organization might be inclined to free up needed spending room.

DT Malik Jackson, Jaguars: He acknowledged in December that he expects to be set loose after sinking to a rotational role just three years into a six-year, \$85 million deal. Cap-crunched Jacksonville can save \$11 million by dropping Jackson, and fellow DT Marcell Dareus (\$10.6 million) could also be on the chopping block or at least asked to restructure his deal.

Diallo leaps over O'Neal to win slam dunk contest

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

(AP)—Boston's Jayson Tatum got his gamewinner from midcourt. Oklahoma City's Hamidou Diallo went over Shaquille O'Neal to help win his trophy. And Brooklyn's Joe Harris made all the shots at all the right times to deny Golden State's Stephen Curry a storybook ending in his hometown.

Say this for All-Star Saturday Night: It had flair.

Tatum won the skills competition, Diallo put on a show for the league's annual slam dunk title, and in easily the most anticipated part of the night Harris held off the Warriors' shooting star for the win in the 3-point contest.

Harris made 12 straight shots in the final round and went a staggering 15 for 18 on moneyballs—the shots worth the most—to win the 3-point title. He finished with 26 of a possible 34 points in the final round, beating Curry by two. Sacramento's Buddy Hield was third with 19 final-round points.

"Obviously, it's incredible," Harris said. "Steph is the greatest shooter of all time. But, again, shooting off of the rack for a minute is not indicative of being a better shooter than Steph Curry. I don't want anybody to get it twisted at all."

And the runner-up left a winner, too.

Stephen Curry and his brother Seth Curry of the Portland Trail Blazers had a bet where the winner of the 3-point contest — they were



both entrants — would have to pay for tickets for the family over the rest of their careers.

Seth Curry didn't get out of the first round. He said that even though his brother didn't win, he'd pay up.

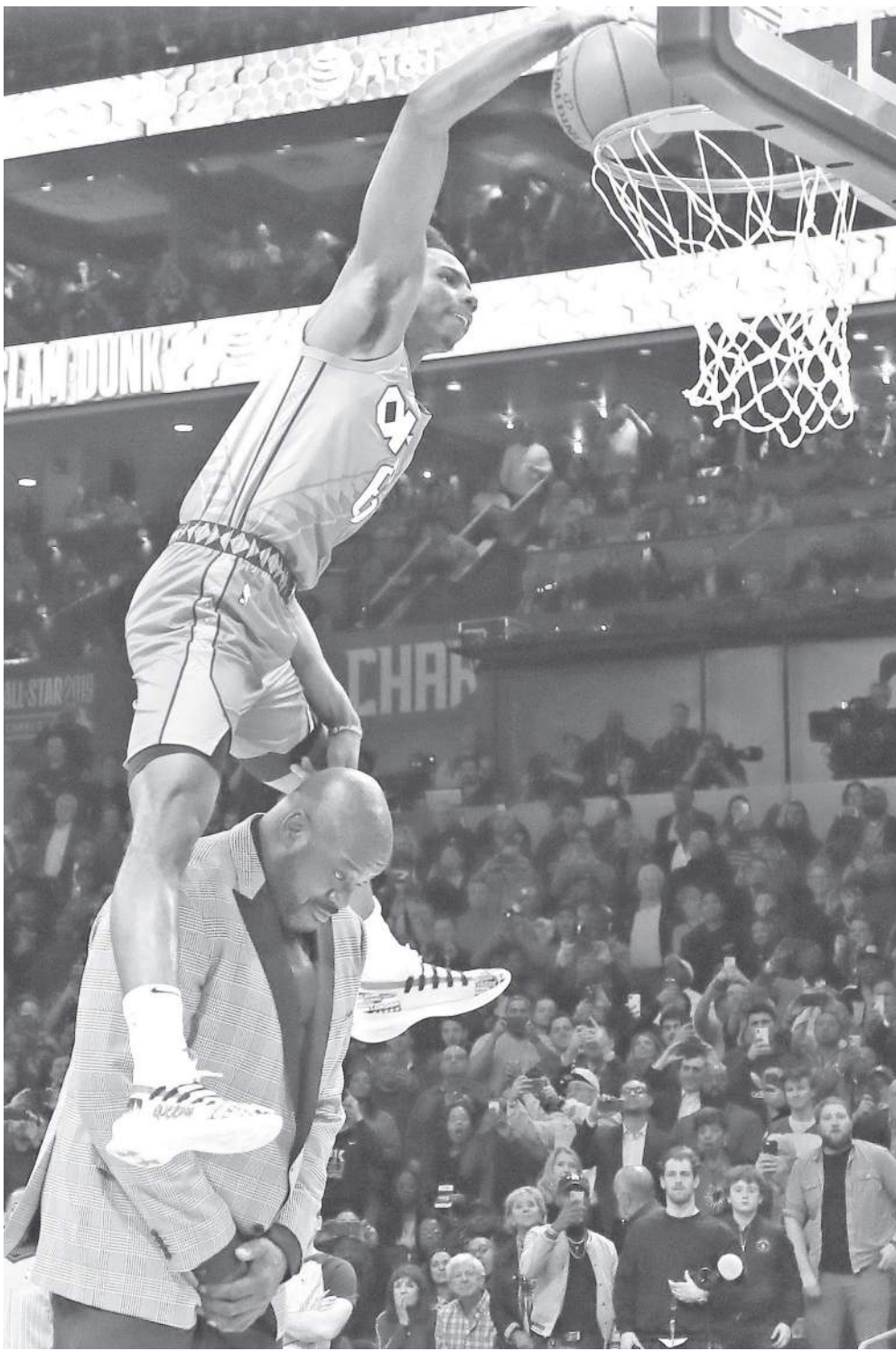
"It stands. He got that 27 in Round One and that's impressive," Seth Curry said. "He deserved to win the bet and I have to do what I got to do."

Stephen Curry won the first round with 27 points, making his last 10 shots. Hield was second with 26 points, and Harris finished with 25 to grab the last spot in the finals. And in a weekend where the Curry family — Dell Curry is a former Charlotte star, Steph is a three-time NBA champion, Seth is in the league and mother Sonya beat them all by making an underhand half-court shot Friday — was celebrated, the trophy finish didn't happen.

"I would have loved the storybook ending — Steph comes home and wins in his native Charlotte," Stephen Curry said. "That's how I had it in my head anyway."

Stephen Curry went a combined 37 for 50 in the two rounds, the best of anyone in the event. But Harris' timely makes of the moneyballs put him over the top.

"It's been an honor for me to be here, for me to partici-



Oklahoma City Thunder Hamidou Diallo leaps over former NBA player Shaquille O'Neal during the NBA All-Star Slam Dunk contest, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. Diallo won the contest.

a chance," Tatum said. "I honestly didn't know I was going to hit the shot, but I had to give myself a chance and throw it up there. It worked out for the best."

When the skills challenge and 3-point contest cleared the floor, that left the dunkers. The slam dunk contest field of four—New York's Dennis Smith Jr., Oklahoma City's Hamidou Diallo, Charlotte's Miles Bridges and Atlanta's John Collins—was pared to Diallo and Smith for the final.

Diallo pulled off a dunk that will be talked about for years in the first round — dunking over Shaquille O'Neal, hanging on the rim by his elbow, then tearing open his jersey to reveal a "Superman" shirt underneath. And his first dunk of the final round had the top of his head at basically rim level, putting him in control after Smith failed to make a dunk in his debut try of the final.

Smith leapfrogged Miami's Dwyane Wade and took a lob from Stephen Curry to give himself a chance with his last dunk, getting a perfect score from the judges — and a round of boos from the crowd, many of whom weren't that impressed.

That left Diallo as the night's final participant. Diallo got rapper Quavo out of the crowd, put the ball in his hands, then grabbed it as he went airborne for the slam that sealed the title.

"Atmosphere was great," Diallo said. "Just came out and gave the crowd what it was looking for."

Davis adds Celtics to wish list



CHARLOTTE—Add the Boston Celtics to the Anthony Davis' wish list.

And add some intrigue to the Anthony Davis sweepstakes.

Asked why the Celtics were not on the original list of teams he preferred to be traded to, Davis responded, "They are on my list."

That comment made at Saturday's NBA All-Star Game media availability sent reporters' fingers to Twitter, and now, Celtics president Danny Ainge must be thrilled that Davis is willing to play for the Celtics. The Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Clippers, Milwaukee Bucks and New York Knicks were teams on the original list reported by several outlets.

He also said the Celtics were never not on his list.

Davis, who requested a trade from the New Orleans Pelicans but was not moved before the Feb. 7 trade deadline, also said

he wanted to take charge of his future. He indicated he wanted to get a deal done before the trade deadline.

"Obviously, in the game of basketball, you want to take control of your career," Davis said. "We're the ones who are playing. That's what I tried to do."

It was reported at the time there was reluctance on Davis' part to play for Boston because he wasn't sure about Kyrie Irving's long-term plans with Celtics. Davis' dad, Anthony Davis Sr., also told ESPN that he didn't want his son to play for the Celtics because they showed no loyalty to players, citing the Isaiah Thomas situation.

Davis confirmed that winning—not the biggest payday—is what matters most regardless of market size.

"Big market, small market, it doesn't matter," Davis said. "My focus is winning at this point in my career and whatever that may be, it could be a small market or big market. I

just want to win."

Davis, who is represented by LeBron James' agent Rich Paul, said he hasn't talked to James about his situation, and when asked if wants to play alongside James some day, Davis replied, "Sunday, I definitely will," referring to the All-Star Game.

It was the most forthcoming Davis has been since news of the trade request emerged in late January.

Davis professed his appreciation for New Orleans even though he wants to play for another team.

"When you're somewhere for seven years, you have a love for them," Davis said. "I have a love for the city, the fans. That's my home. I have a couple of homes in New Orleans. I'll always have love for the city of New Orleans. Obviously when that time comes, I'm definitely going to have a heartwarming message for them — and put it out there on Instagram like everybody else does."

pate in this weekend," Harris said. "And it's certainly something that I'll remember for a long time."

Same goes for Tatum.

The night started with the skills challenge, and Tatum edged Atlanta rookie Trae Young in the final by making a shot from just past the

midcourt stripe. Young was ahead of Tatum in the competition where players have to execute some passes, a layup and then a 3-pointer. So fearing that Young would make his 3 before Tatum could even get one off, he let it fly from about 50 feet.

"I didn't want to give Trae

NBA, FIBA announce plans for pro league in Africa

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The NBA is bringing a pro league to Africa.

The Basketball Africa League, a new collaboration between the NBA and the sport's global governing body FIBA, was announced Saturday. The initial plan is for the 12-team league to begin play in January, and former President Barack Obama is among those who are expected to have direct involvement with the league's plan to keep growing the game in Africa through the league and other initiatives.

The scope of what Obama's involvement will be remains unknown, and it's yet to be determined

which existing club teams will be part of the league. Qualification tournaments will be held later this year to determine those clubs, with teams from Angola, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia expected to be among those taking part. No nation will have more than two teams in the league.

"As we've been talking about this concept over the last several months, there's been a tremendous reception from many of our NBA team owners ... and in addition, several of the partners of the NBA have expressed a strong desire to work with

us in Africa," Silver said.

Silver said Pepsi and Nike's Jordan Brand—Charlotte owner Michael Jordan was among the owners in the room where Silver made the announcement—are among the partners who have reached out to the NBA and said they want to be part of the Africa league. Silver also said that Obama, an enormous basketball fan, has told him he wants to "be directly involved with these activities in Africa."

Silver said talks between the NBA and Obama are ongoing. Obama spoke on a video that was shown during the event where Silver announced the league.

Harper to Phillies could be 'heading home shortly'



PHILADELPHIA—The

Bryce Harper sweepstakes might be nearing its conclusion, according to former MLB general manager and current CBS Sports analyst Jim Bowden.

Speaking on Saturday, Bowden said he keeps "hearing there's a lot of momentum and traction on Bryce Harper signing with the Philadelphia Phillies." Adding that a deal "could be rounding third and heading home shortly."

In a video clip, Bowden says that Harper's final choices appear to be the Phillies and Nationals. He says Harper will not entertain a short-term deal like the one reportedly offered by the San Francisco Giants, and every indication Bowden has received points to Harper landing the 10-year, \$300 million contract he's been seeking if he signs with Philadelphia.

At this stage in the surprisingly lengthy process, people have learned to take every rumor with a grain of salt. With that said, Bowden's comments do qualify as the most confident we've heard in connecting Harper to a specific suitor, so perhaps there's more smoke here than past rumors.

There have also been rumblings over the last 24 hours that Harper is in a celebratory mood. Some have read those rumors as an indication his decision has been made. An



Instagram response to Phillies first baseman Rhys Hoskins further fueled those rumors.

Perhaps Harper's finally ready to sign the dotted line. Perhaps he's not. If nothing else, now seems like a good time to start paying attention again.

Machado meets Padres anew

The San Diego Padres' pursuit of Manny Machado continued with a reported face-to-face meeting earlier this week in Miami.

According to Kevin Acee of the San Diego Union-Tribune, Padres general manager A.J.

Preller made the cross-country flight to Miami to meet with Machado and his wife. It's the second meeting the Padres and Machado have had this offseason, but this one clearly has a more personal feel. Acee termed the meeting "a step that indicates the sides contin-

ue to work toward a possible agreement."

The Padres' interest in Machado has gradually increased the longer he's remained available. San Diego has also been a late entry into the Bryce Harper sweepstakes. Members of the Padres front

Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper runs toward second on his double during the third inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, in Washington.

office recently flew to Harper's hometown of Las Vegas to meet with the free agent and his representation.

No formal Padres offers have been reported, but Acee's sources say that Machado and Harper are "aware of the Padres' level of interest."

It means the Padres are still hopeful. It also means Machado hasn't yet closed the door on San Diego. Considering how far along the process should be at this point, those should be viewed as significant developments.

Of course, the circumstances here are unlike any we've seen in free agency. It's mid-February. Teams are holding spring training workouts. Yet there's still no real feel for which way Machado or Harper are leaning, or what the best offer for each might be.

That said, it still seems unlikely San Diego would be the team to make the best offer. After all this time, it's still going to be about the money and that's not an area where San Diego can usually compete. But until we hear about a breakthrough meeting with the Phillies, White Sox, Yankees or some other team involved, the Padres chances will hold steady.

St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright became the latest player to voice his concern over the slow free agent market and even forecast a strike midseason.

"Unless something changes, there's going to be a strike, 100 percent," Wainwright told InsideSTL.com on Friday.

"I'm just worried people are going to walk out mid-season. ...

"Thirty owners need to be answering that because you have one of the best players in the game that needs a job and no one is signing him. You've got 30 owners who have a sabermetric box that will sign players when they were in that box. They don't take any intangibles or anything else into play and that's a sad thing.

"You have to realize that this is about winning. If Bryce Harper wants 10 years and he's 26 years old, is anyone saying that he's going to have 10 MVPs? No, but he might have three or four in there ... He's going to be a dynamic player. The same can be said about Manny Machado. These guys are superstar

Wainwright: MLB players will strike barring change

players."

With full squads reporting to camp in the coming days, Bryce Harper, Manny Machado, Craig Kimbrel and Dallas Keuchel remained unsigned, among many others.

Earlier this week, Houston Astros pitcher Justin Verlander vented his frustration on Twitter.

"System is broken," he wrote. "They blame 'rebuilding' but that's BS. You're telling me you couldn't sign Bryce or Manny for 10 years and go from there? Seems like a good place to start a rebuild to me. (Age) 26-36 is a great performance window too."

Could a midseason strike actually happen? It's conceivable considering all the frustration, but probably unlikely. There hasn't been a work stoppage since the 1994-95 season. But that could end when the collective bargaining agreement expires Dec. 1, 2021.

The regular season, however, is less than six weeks away with some of baseball's best players still sitting at home.

Meanwhile, in New York, right-hander Luis Severino avoided an arbitration hearing with the Yankees, agreeing Friday to a \$40 million, four-year contract.

Severino's deal includes a team option for 2023 that could make the agreement worth \$52.25 million for five seasons. If the option is not exercised, Severino would be eligible for free agency after the 2022 season.

Severino gets a \$2 million signing bonus, \$4 million in 2019, \$10 million in 2020, \$10.5 million in 2021 and \$11 million in 2022. The team option is for \$15 million with a \$2.75 million buyout.

"He's a great pitcher, and I hope he's here for a long time," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said before the deal was announced.

He had been scheduled for the final salary arbitration hearing of the year on Friday morning at St. Petersburg, Florida. Severino had asked for a raise from \$604,975 to \$5.25 million in his first sea-

son of arbitration eligibility and the Yankees had offered \$4.4 million.

By agreeing to a long-term contract with a \$10 million average annual value, New York raised its projected luxury tax payroll to about \$225 million, well above the \$206 million threshold.

Severino has a 41-25 career record with a 3.51 ERA and falls two days of service time short of having been eligible for free agency after 2021. He was set back when he struggled in 2016 and was sent to the minor leagues several times.

A right-hander who turns 25 next Wednesday, Severino is a two-time All-Star. He went 19-8 with a 3.39 ERA last year, winning 14 of his first 16 decisions but then five of his last 11. He came out early in both of his postseason starts, going 0-1 in seven innings.

Boone anticipates Severino will start the opener against Baltimore on March 28.

Severino's hearing arguments became more complex

when Philadelphia ace Aaron Nola agreed Wednesday to a \$45 million, four-year contract that includes a 2023 club option that could make the deal worth \$56.75 million over five seasons. Nola has three years, 76 days of major league service, and his deal includes a \$2 million signing bonus and a \$4 million salary this year.

In Arizona, a person with direct knowledge of the negotiations says free agent Cameron Maybin is closing in on a minor league contract with the San Francisco Giants, who were still in the market for outfielders to add depth.

Maybin must pass a physical, the person said Saturday, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal wasn't complete. The agreement would include an invitation to big league spring training.

Maybin would join his ninth team in parts of 13 major league seasons.

In other news, Yoenis Cespedes says he thinks he'll be

able to play at some point this season.

Recovering from surgery on both heels, the New York Mets slugger told reporters through a translator at spring training Friday he is finally pain-free. He has been working out and plans to begin throwing next week, but there's no timetable for when the 33-year-old left fielder will start running or hitting—and he's not sure when he might return to the lineup.

The Athletic first reported Maybin was close to a deal Saturday.

The team has said Cespedes is expected to be sidelined until at least July. Mets manager Mickey Callaway said this week he hopes Cespedes can contribute "late in the season."

The oft-injured Cespedes, who said he's been frustrated and bored while recovering, has been limited to 119 games since signing a \$110 million, four-year contract after the 2016 season.

He had separate operations to remove calcification and bone spurs from both heels, the first last August and the second in late October.

SLLB: Minors, Majors to push through

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Saipan Little League Baseball will definitely hold competition for the Minors and Majors this season.

SLLB head Mike Borja confirmed that they are locked in for the two divisions and are planning to open shop either in the last weekend of February or first weekend of March. As for the Junior and Senior divisions, Borja added that they are still looking for a venue.

“Fortunately, for the Minors and Majors, we will be using the Capitol Hill Ballfield after the Natibu Sports Association agreed to share the field with us,” Borja said.

NSA, two weeks ago, kicked off its girls fast-pitch and boys slow-pitch league with matches being played every Saturday.

“However, for the Junior and Senior League, we’re not sure yet, as we are still trying



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The NSA Braves pitcher, right, goes for a catch, while a Cubs runner slides home during their game in the Minors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel “Tan Ge” Basa Pangelinan Ballfield

For the Majors, SLLB has already received expression of interest from eight teams, while five may compete in the Minors division.

The Kagman Little Legals are the defending champions in the Majors division after winning last year’s championship against the Talaabwogh Falcons, 6-4. In the Minors division, the Kagman Marlins edged out the NSA Braves, 5-3, in the inaugural contest last year.

In the Junior League, Comets 1 took the title after dominating the Falcons in the finals, 8-1, and ending the latter’s three-year reign in the division. In the Senior League, the Falcons successfully defended their title and secured the 3-peat following a 7-4 triumph over the NSA Braves in last year’s finale.

SCHORR

From Page 24

semis pairing, 6-2. Lim and Kadokura met yesterday for the battle for third with the former winning, 6-3, while Riku Takahashi prevailed in the other consolation game last Saturday after topping Ki Won Lee, 6-4.

In the boys U12 singles, Yu also made it to the finals after outclassing Takeru Jim in their semis match last Saturday, 6-4, 6-4. Yu will challenge the No.1 seed Juncheol Hwang for the division title today, as the latter eased his way past Wataru Kadokura, 6-0, 6-0, in the other Final Four match last weekend. Kadokura and Jim will also collide today to dispute the third place honors.

In the girls U12 singles, upsets marked the semifinal round with the unranked Hoo Wang stunning No.1 Savita Sikkell, 6-3, 6-2, and Dain Lee pulling the rug under No. 2 Irin Chung, 6-3, 6-4. Chung settled for the third place award following a hard-fought win over Sikkell, 4-6, 6-0, 10-8.

to find a venue. Everybody knows that we can’t use the Tan Ko field (Francisco Pa-

lacios Ballfield at the Oleai Sports Complex) since it was damaged by Super Typhoon

Yutu. We’re looking at alternatives, but we need to ask permission from proper au-

thorities. We will meet again this month before making any decision,” Borja added.

Tigers lights up Riviera; Thomas holds shaky lead

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tiger Woods had Riviera rocking with cheers that could be heard a half-mile away, three birdies and an eagle in his opening four holes for his hottest start on the PGA Tour in nearly 10 years.

On the other side of the course, and still well ahead of him on the leaderboard, Justin Thomas made a 12-foot eagle putt to take a one-shot lead over Adam Scott, who narrowly missed his eagle attempt from 10 feet.

It was the kind of Saturday drama at the Genesis Open that sets the table for the final round, with one big difference.

The third round was just getting started at rain-delayed Riviera.

“There’s so much golf to play,” Scott said. “It feels like it’s late in the tourney, but it’s

only halfway.”

Thomas got a lot done in

the eight holes he played Saturday—six in the morn-



AP
Tiger Woods watches his second shot on the 13th hole during the third round of the Genesis Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

ing to complete the second round, two in the twilight to at least leave Riviera with the lead. He nearly holed a 9-iron on No. 5 for a tap-in birdie, and then clipped a flop shot from the putting green and over the bunker to make par on the par-3 sixth on his way to a 6-under 65. Scott played behind him—he got in nine holes—and matched his 65 to join him in the 36-hole lead at 11-under 131.

Both made tough par saves on No. 2 in the third round. Both hit their tee shots on the next hole, wanting to get in as many holes as possible in superb conditions and to keep Sunday even a little bit shorter.

But they ran out of light.

Scott always leaves the

flagstick in, anyway, but he couldn’t see it from 136 yards away. Thomas decided to mark his ball in the right rough. Play stopped across Riviera, as Woods chose to mark his ball well short of the green at the par-5 17th, where he will return to try to get up-and-down for par.

The third round was to resume at 6:45 a.m., and then the 76 players who make the cut will head right back out in the same groups.

Thomas got a lot done in eight holes at rain-delayed Riviera—six in the morning

Thomas was at 13-under par through two holes of the third round.

The seven holes Woods completed had the gallery in a frenzy.



TWO

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after they scored a combined nine runs in the final two innings—seven in the fourth and two in the fifth. Richelle Ramon, Kiana Aldan, Cass Camacho, Mariko Laniyo, Chanel Espinola, Christy Aldan, and Franzie Elieisar crossed home plate in the pivotal fourth, as the Patriots-Angels finished off Balas after only five innings, winning via 10-run mercy rule.

Before walking away with

the early victory, the Patriots-Angels were just ahead by 5, 14-9, after three complete innings. The Patriots-Angels were in control of the match right at the get-go after making six runs at the top of first inning, while Balas countered with only three at the bottom. The Patriots-Angels then widened the gap in the second inning, adding seven more runs against the six of Balas, while the opposing teams had one run apiece in the third.

After staying close with the Patriots-Angels in the first

three innings, Balas folded up in the last two, recording only three in the fourth and failing to score in the fifth. Balas had a chance to escape the early loss with two outs and runners on second and third at the bottom of the fifth, but Jaime Pangelinan flied out at centerfield.

With the victory, the Patriots-Angels took the lead in the four-team field with their 2-0 record, while Balas dropped to a 1-1 mark.

In the other girls fast-pitch game, the Ayuyus were given the outright win since the Nin-

ers did not have enough players for the match. The Ayuyus now have a 1-1 slate, while the Niners fell to a 0-2 card.

Braves 14, Ayuyus 7

In the curtain-raiser in the boys slow-pitch division, the Braves bounced back from their opening loss after beating the Ayuyus in six innings.

The Braves were still down after the third inning, 6-7, when they went on target in the fourth, scoring eight runs to grab the upper hand and never relinquished it. J.J.Sablan, Ton

Dizon, Awang Tudela, Ping Kapileo, Jeremy Ngraked, Nick Nekai, Blade Igitol, and Heath Camacho contributed to the Brave’s eight-run top of the fourth inning, while the Ayuyus (1-1) were silenced in the final three innings

Falcons 15, Blue Jays 10

In the other game in the division, the Falcons pulled off a come-from-behind victory against the Blue Jays after seven innings.

The Falcons, who faced a 2-10 deficit at the end of the fifth

inning, came to life in the final two, scoring 13 unanswered runs to remain unbeaten.

Ping Norita led the Falcons’ recovery, as he blasted a two-run homer at the top of the sixth inning and also reached home in the seventh. Arby Yaguel, Angel Iguel, Keoni Serrano, and I.J. Iguel, had two runs each, too in the final two innings, while Kobe Lifofoi, Dennis Cabrera, and Dung Maratita added one apiece.

The Blue Jays, after collapsing in the last three innings,



Kaepernick, Reid
settle collusion
grievances
with NFL

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Diallo leaps
over O'Neal to
win slam dunk
contest

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Schorr returns to finals, faces Woo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The battle for the men's open singles championship will be between the Top 2 seeded players, as Robbie Schorr and Jimin Woo prevailed in their respective semis matches in the 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

The top-ranked Schorr, who lost to Moris Villanueva in last year's title game, earned a return trip to the finals following a 6-3, 6-3 victory over No. 3 Jeff Race yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis court. Earlier last Saturday, Schorr booked the last semis ticket in the division after easing past Malika Miyawaki, 6-1, 6-0. Also last Saturday, Woo advanced to the finals ahead of Schorr after downing Sean Lee in their Final Four duel, 6-2, 6-4.

Schorr and Woo will dispute the men's single crown today at 9:30am, while Lee had already secured third place after winning over Race (walkover). Also scheduled for today is the consolation match between Vincent Tude-la and Miyawaki, who won



over Tania Tan, 6-0, 6-0, and Gary Ramsey, 6-1, 6-0, respectively.

Meanwhile, the boys U16 singles title will be contested, too by the Top 2 players in the division.

No. 1 seed Sam Ryu advanced to the finals after eliminating Andy Kim, 6-4, 6-3. Ryu will square off against No. 2 Daniel Kang, who also needed only two sets to down Maria Gregoire in their semis match, 6-1, 6-1. Gregoire will play Kim for the third place finish today.

In the boys U10 singles, No. 1 June Yu moved to the finals following a 6-4 victory over Jun Lim. Her finals foe will be the unranked Lina Tsukagoshi, who downed Yutaka Kadokura in the other

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robbie Schorr goes for a backhand slice during the first set of his semis game against Jeff Race in the men's singles event of the 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park courts.



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

The Falcons' Pedro Maratita gets ready to swing during their game against the Blue Jays in the NSA Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Two in a row for Patriots-Angels, Falcons

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The Patriots-Angels and Falcons notched their second victory in as many games in the 2019 Natu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

In the first game in the girls fast-pitch division, the Patriots-Angels defeated Balas, 23-13.

The Patriots-Angels put the game out of Balas' reach

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Patriots-Angels players pose for a photo during the opening ceremony of the NSA Girls Fast-pitch Softball League early this month at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.